

KOPTICA.
KOPTICA is SPECIFIC for RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, LUMBAR GOUT, SCIATICA and Kindred Complaints.
KOPTICA. This is the sort of letters we are receiving daily—
KOPTICA. Rev. D. G. Davis writes—
"Shenstone Factory, Chesham, May 10, 1889.
Will you kindly send me three bottles of your 'K' pills. Cure?"
KOPTICA. Opened bottle completely cured a labouring man who was suffering from sciatica and rheumatism of head and neck.—Yours truly,
D. G. Davis (Rector).
The prices are 1s., 1d., 2s., 8d., and 6s. 8d.; also a small tin containing 12, 2s. and 6d. doses.
Ask your chemist for KOPTICA and, if he has not got it in stock, will get it for you; if not, send stamp and 2d. extra for postage, to the Sole Proprietors.
"KOPTICA CURE,"
992, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

The People

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

ONE PENNY. [a.P.O. ass Newspaper.]

LONDON, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1890.

MILFORD LANE } STRAND.—No. 437.

THIRD EDITION.
"THE PEOPLE" OFFICE,
Saturday Evening.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

BERLIN, February 23.—The electoral returns are coming in slowly. The results of 255 elections out of a total of 397 are now known, the successful candidates comprising 26 Conservatives, 10 Imperialists, 11 National Liberals, 62 Members of the Centre, 12 Freisinnige, 16 Socialists, 4 Poles, 1 Independent Liberal, 10 Alsatians, 3 Democrats, and 1 Dane. Second ballots will be necessary in the case of 18 Conservatives, 14 Imperialists, 58 National Liberals, 15 Members of the Centre, 40 Freisinnige, 43 Socialists, 2 Guelphs, 4 Poles, 1 Independent Liberal, 1 Alsatian, and 9 Democrats.

Serious Disturbances.

The result of the elections seems to be the disappearance of the Cartel majority and an enormous increase in the ranks of the Social Democrats. A serious disturbance is reported from Altona, near Hamburg. An ever-growing concourse of people, elated by the victory of four Social Democratic candidates for the districts of Hamburg and Altona, refused about midnight to disperse at the summons of the police. Ultimately recourse was had to the military, who scattered the people at the point of the bayonet. Many were wounded more or less severely, and a number of arrests were made.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

THE BERNE LABOUR CONFERENCE. BERNE, February 22.—The Federal Council has now decided in principle to abandon the proposal for an international labour conference at Berne, provided that the programme of the Berlin Conference goes beyond the questions relating to mines and strikes.

THE PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE. WASHINGTON, February 22.—The Railroad Committee of the Pan-American Conference has reported in favour of a Continental railroad system to unite the several nations of America.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN CALIFORNIA. NEW YORK, February 22.—While a train with two locomotives was returning yesterday, from the scene of the snow blockade near Suisun, a serious accident occurred, owing to the breaking of the couplings, and a number of labourers were wounded more or less severely, and a number of arrests were made.

THE CRONIN BRIBERY CASE. CHICAGO, February 20.—The judge engaged in trying the persons accused of having attempted to bribe the jury in the Cronin case, yesterday, ordered a verdict of not guilty in the case of Kavanaugh. O'Donnell's case is proceeding.

EXTRAORDINARY SCENE IN THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT. (EXCHANGE COMPANY'S TELEGRAMS).

OTTAWA, February 22.—The Government amendment on the Anti-French Bill was passed in the Dominion House of Commons last night, by a majority of ninety-nine, after an exciting debate extending over seven days. Before the final division an extraordinary scene took place—the House broke into song, the Premier and the Ministry joining heartily in the chorus.

(CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAMS.)

THREE THOUSAND FISHERMEN DROWNED. SAN FRANCISCO, February 22.—Reports arriving here by yesterday's mail describe a series of fearful hurricanes on the Chinese coast at the latter end of January. A thousand fishing boats were blown out to sea and a large number were lost. It is believed that fully 3,000 fishermen were drowned. Whole villages on the coast are in mourning.

EUROPEANS ASSASSINATED IN CHINA. SAN FRANCISCO, February 22.—Mr. Dargence with his wife and son (Europeans), have been assassinated at Haiphong by Chinese.

A POISONING MYSTERY. Romantic Career of a Girl.

Dr. G. Danford Thomas has held an inquest at the Clerkenwell Coroner's Court on the body of Matilda Lympney, aged 19, unmarried, who had resided since a child with her grandparents at 5, St. James-street, Clerkenwell. About a year and a half ago the deceased was shot by a lover at Charing Cross Station, who fortunately missed her. He then immediately shot himself; the wound proving fatal. By this occurrence the deceased had, it was stated, sustained a nervous shock, from which she never fully recovered. Further, it was said, another young man had committed suicide because of the deceased. At the time of her death she was engaged to Edward Brooks, a coachman, and between them there had just been a slight quarrel.—Thomas Horton, a lithographic printer, her grandfather, stated that on the 11th and 12th inst. the deceased complained of pains at her side, and, on the next night, as she was evidently seriously ill, the assistant of Dr. Gabe, of Mecklenburgh-square, in the absence of his principal, saw her, and, believing she suffered from indigestion, prescribed a simple remedy. On the morning of the 13th, at six, she was found by her grandfather dead in bed. Dr. Gabe, who had attended her within six months and knew her to be suffering from a weak heart, was prepared to certify that she had died from syncope and asphyxia, but a paragraph appearing in the *Evening News* and *Post* suggesting that she had taken poison, the coroner ordered a post mortem examination to be made and held that inquest.—Dr. Yarrow, of 317, City-road, deposed that he had examined the body in the presence and with the assistance of Dr. Gabe. The witness added that he found from the appearance of the stomach that an irritant poison was the immediate cause of death. The witness further stated that he discovered the deceased was unconscious.—The girl's mother said she was not aware of her daughter's condition.—The coroner remarked that at first sight it would seem that the deceased had taken poison probably with an unlawful object.—Edward Brooks, a coachman, of 188, Euston-road, said he had been "keeping company" with the deceased four months. He had quarrelled with her occasionally. He had no knowledge of her condition. He had often heard her say of late, "She wished she was out of the way," but he did not ask why, nor did she voluntarily assign any reason for her wish. When he saw her on the night of the 12th in bed she was at first unconscious, but subsequently recognised him.—The inquiry was adjourned to admit of an analysis of the stomach and its contents.

PERILOUS ADVENTURE OF A PARACHUTIST.

Miss De Vey made balloon ascent from the Welsh Harp Grounds, Hendon, on Thursday afternoon. After rising to a great height she left the balloon and dropped with the parachute, amid intense excitement. She fell into the lake, and when the startled spectators reached the bank, they could see the parachute afloat but no sign of the lady. With cries of "Good God, she is drowned!" and with blanched faces, the people ran round the shore; women shrieked, and many a man's face was wet with tears. The boats were pulled hard towards the spot, which was considerably more than 400 yards from the nearest land; a young labouring man on the bridge jumped in and swam for the parachute, which was about thirty yards from the bank. It was a period of terrible suspense and agitation, and it seemed an age. The parachute overlay without a movement on the water, and every one took the young lady's death for granted. One of the boatmen was first to reach the place, and he lost no time in seizing the cords and hauling hand over hand, until the lifeless girl, still fastened to the gear, was dragged into his boat. A general exclamation of despair went up from the people who were now crowding the roadway or hurrying round the shore when they saw the little figure stretched out motionless. The second boat came up, and the boatmen tried by chafing, to restore animation. To the amazement, no less than delight of all, in about two minutes Miss De Vey moved, and was then able to sit up, after a fashion. The pent-up feelings of the spectators found expression in a mighty cheer, and they shook hands with one another, and laughed and cried in the same breath.

The Terrier Show, which will open on the 26th inst., at the Central Hall, Holborn, under the management of Mr. G. Crut, a gentleman who has long been associated and favourably known in connection with similar shows, promises to be a greater success than any of its predecessors, the entries already being in excess of those of the five previous years.

DEATH AFTER EATING MUSSELS.

George Palmer, a master farrier, residing in Alexandra-road, St. John's Wood, on Thursday night purchased some mussels in the street. He ate two of them, ordering the remainder to be sent to his home. Shortly afterwards he was seized to his home. He was of intemperate habits, and was in the habit of using violent language towards her. Three or four times she had to leave him owing to his conduct. He had thrown things at her. When living at Lewisham he used to remain out all night. When in a state of intoxication he had threatened her life. When residing at South Hill Park, Hampstead, he threw a chair at her. He had seized her by the throat. Last August she went to Margate, and upon her return she made inquiries and instituted these proceedings.—Corroborative evidence of the cruelty having been given, the servant, formerly in the employ of the parties, gave direct evidence of the adultery on the part of her master, he throwing her down on the bed at which time he was not sober.—His lordship granted a decree nisi, with costs, and custody of the child.

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ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

**THE FIRM
OF GIRDLESTONE.
A ROMANCE OF THE
UNROMANTIC.**
BY A. CONAN DOYLE.
AUTHOR OF "MICAH CLARKE," "A STUDY IN
SCARLET," ETC.

CHAPTER XXXV.**A TALE ON THE LAWN.**

That same evening Rebecca came down from London. Her presence was a comfort to Kate, for though she had never liked or trusted the girl, yet the mere fact of having some one of her own age near her gave her a sense of security and of companionship. Her room, too, had been altered for the better, and the maid was given the one next door, so that by knocking on the wall she could always communicate with her. This was an unspeakable consolation, for at night the old house was so full of the sudden crackings of warped timber and the scampering of rats that entire loneliness was unendurable.

Apart from these uncanny sounds there were other circumstances which gave the Priory a sinister reputation. The very aspect of the building was enough to suggest weird impressions. Its high white walls were blotched with patches of mildew, and in some parts there were long greenish stains from roof to ground, like tear streaks on the crumbling plaster. Indoors there was a dank graveyard smell in the low corridors and narrow staircases. Floors and ceilings were equally worm-eaten and rotten. Broad flakes of plaster from the walls lay littered about in the passages. The wind, too, penetrated the building through many cracks and crannies, so that there was a constant sighing and soughing in the big dreary rooms, which had a most eerie and melancholy effect.

Kate soon learned, however, that besides these vague terrors, all predisposing the mind to alarm and exciting the imagination, there was a general belief that another more definite cause for fear existed in the old monastery. With cruel minuteness of detail her guardian had told her the legend which haunted those gloomy corridors. It appears that in olden times the Priory had been inhabited by Dominicans, and that in the course of years these monks had fallen away from their original state of sanctity. They preserved a name for piety among the country folk by their austere demeanour, but in secret, within the walls of their own monastery they practised every sort of dissipation and crime. While the community was in this state of demoralisation, each from the abbot downwards vieng with the other in the number and enormity of their sins, there came a pious-minded youth from a neighbouring village, who begged that he might be permitted to join the order. He had been attracted, he said, by the fame of their sanctity. He was received amongst them, and at first was not admitted to their revels, but gradually as his conscience was supposed to become more hardened he was duly initiated into all their mysteries. Horrified by what he saw, the good youth concealed his indignation until he had mastered all the abominations of the establishment, and then, rising up on the altar steps, he denounced them in fiery, scathing words. He would leave them that night, he said, and he would tell his experiences through the length and breadth of the country. In-ensed and alarmed the friars held a hasty meeting, and then, seizing the young novice, they dragged him down the cellar steps and locked him up there. This same cellar had long been celebrated for the size and ferocity of the rats which inhabited it, which were so fierce and strong that even during the day they had been known to attack those who entered. It is said that long into the weary hours of the night, the fearful shrieks and terrible struggles of the captive, as he fought with his innumerable assailants resounded through the long corridors.

"They do say that he walks about the house at times," Girdlestone said, in conclusion. "No one has ever been found who would live here very long since then. But, of course, such a strong-minded young woman as you, who cannot even obey your own guardian, would never be frightened by such a childish idea as that."

"I do not believe in ghosts, and I don't think I shall be frightened," Kate answered; but, for all that, the horrible story stuck in her mind, and added another to the many terrors which surrounded her.

Mr. Girdlestone's room was immediately above hers. On the second day of her imprisonment she went up on to this landing, for, having nothing to read save the Bible, and no materials for writing, she had little to do but to wander over the old house and through the grounds. The door of Girdlestone's room was ajar, and she could not help observing as she passed that the apartment was most elegantly and comfortably furnished. So was the next room, the door of which was also open. The solid furniture and rich carpet contrasted strangely with her own bare, whitewashed chamber. All this pointed to the fact that her removal to the Priory had not been a sudden impulse on the part of the old merchant, but that he had planned and arranged every detail before-hand. Her refusal of Ezra was only the excuse for setting the machinery in motion. What was the object then, and what was to be the end of this subtle scheming? That was the question which occurred to her every hour of the day, and every hour the answer seemed more grim and menacing.

There was one link in the chain which was ever hidden from her. It had never occurred to the girl that her fortune could be moment to the firm. She had been so accustomed to hear Ezra and his father talk glibly of millions that she deprecated her own little capital and failed to realise how important it might be in a commercial crisis. Indeed, the possibility of such a crisis never entered her head, for one of her earliest impressions was hearing her father talk of the great resources of the firm and of its stability. That this firm was now in the direst straits, and that her money was absolutely essential to its existence, were things which never for one instant entered her thoughts.

Yet that necessity was becoming more pressing every day. Ezra, in London, was doing all that indomitable energy and extraordinary business capacity could do to prolong the struggle. As debts became due, he would still stare at each creditor with such skill and plausibility as allayed every suspicion. Day by day, however, the work became more severe, and he felt that he was propping up an edifice which was so rotten that it must, sooner or later, come crashing about his ears. When he came down to the Priory upon the Saturday, the young man's haggard and anxious face showed the severe ordeal which he had undergone.

Kate had already retired to her room when he arrived. She heard the sound of the trap, however, and guessed who it was, even before his deep bass voice sounded in the room beneath. Looking out of her window a little later she saw him walking to and fro in the moonlight talking earnestly to his father. It was a bitter night, and she wondered what they could have to talk about which might not be said beside the warm fire in the dining-room. They flickered up and down among the shadows for more than an hour, and then the girl heard the door slam, and shortly afterwards the heavy tread of the two men passed her chamber, and ascended to the rooms above.

It was a momentous conversation which she had witnessed. In it Ezra had shown his father how impossible it was to keep up appearances, and how infallible was their ruin unless help came speedily. "I don't think any of them smell a rat," he said. "Mortimer and Johnson pressed for their bill in rather an ugly manner, but I talked them over completely. I took out my cheque-book. 'Look here, gentlemen,' said I, 'if you wish I shall write a cheque for the amount. If I do, it will be the last piece of business which we will do together. A great house like ours can't afford to be disturbed in the routine of their business.' They curied up at once, and said no more

about it. It was an anxious moment, though, for if they had taken my offer the whole murder would have been out."

The old man started at the word his son had used, and rubbed his hands together as though sudden chill had struck through him. "Don't you think, Ezra," he said, clutching his son's arm, "that 'tis a very foolish saying about 'murder will out'? I remember Pilkington, the detective, who was a member of our church when I used to worship at Durham-street, speaking on this subject. He said that it was his opinion that people are being continually made away with, and that not more than one in ten are ever accounted for. Nine chances to one, Ezra, and then those which are found out are very vulgar affairs. If a man of intellect gave his mind to it, there would be little chance of detection. How very cold the night is!"

"Yes," returned his son. "It is best to talk of such things in the open air though. How has all gone since you have been down here?"

"Very well. She was restive the first day, and wanted to get to Bedsworth. I think that she has given it up as a bad job. Stevens, the gatekeeper, is a very worthy fellow."

"What steps have you taken?" asked Ezra, striking a fuse and lighting a cigar.

"I have taken care that they should know that she is an invalid both at Bedsworth and at Claxton. They have all heard of the poor sick young lady at the Priory. I have let them know also that her mind is a little strange, which accounts, of course, for her being kept in solitude. When it happens —"

"For God's sake, be quiet!" the young man cried with a shudder. "It's an awful job; I won't bear thinking of."

"Yes, it is a sad business; but what else is there?"

"And how would you do it?" Ezra asked in a hoarse whisper. "No violence, I hope."

"It may come to that. I have other plans in my head, however, which may be tried first. I think that I see one way out of it which would simplify matters."

"If there is no alternative I have a man who is ripe for any job of the sort."

"Ah, who is that?"

"A fellow who can hit a good downright blow, as I can testify to my cost. His name is Burt. He is the man who cut my head open in Africa. I met him in London the other day, and spotted him at once. He is a half-starved, poor devil, and as desperate as a man could be. He is just in the key for any business of the sort. I've got the whip-hand of him now, and he knows it, so that I could put him up to anything. I believe that such a job would be a positive pleasure to him, for the fellow is more like a wild beast than a man."

"Sad, sad!" Girdlestone exclaimed. "If a man once falls away, what is there to separate him from the beasts? How can I find this man?"

"Wire to me. Put 'Send a doctor' that will do as well as anything else, and will sound well at the post office. I'll see that he comes down by the next train. You'd best meet him at the station for the chances are that he will be drunk."

"Bring him down," said Girdlestone. "You must bring him here yourself."

"Surely you can do without me?"

"No, no. We must stand or fall together."

"I've a good mind to throw the thing over," said Ezra, stopping in his walk. "It sickens me."

"What! Go back now!" the old man cried vehemently. "No, no, that would be too craven. We have everything in our favour, and all that we want is a stout heart. Oh, my boy, my boy, on the one side of you are ruin, dishonour, a sordid existence, and the scorn of your old companions. On the other are success and riches and fame and all that can make life pleasant. You know as well as I do that the girl's money would turn the scale, and that all would then be well. Your whole future depends upon her death. We have given her every chance. She laughed at your love. It is time now to show her your hate."

"That is true enough," Ezra said, walking on.

"There is no reason why I should pity her. I've put my hand to the plough, and I shall go on. I seem to be getting into your infernal knack of scripture quoting."

"There is a brave good lad," cried his father.

"It would not do to draw back now."

"You will find Rebecca useful," the young man said. "You may trust her entirely."

"You did well to send her. Have they asked for me much?"

"Yes, I have told them all the same story—nervous exhaustion and doctor's orders that you were not to be disturbed by any business letters. The only man who seemed to smell a rat was that young Dinsdale."

"Ah!" cried the old man, with a chuckle, "of course he would be surprised at our disappearance."

"He looks like a madman; I asked me where you had gone, and when I answered him as I had the others, stormed out that he had a right to know, and that he would know. His blood was up, and there was nearly being a pretty scene before the clerks. He follows me home every evening to Eccleston-square, and waits outside half the night through to see that I do not leave the house."

"Does he though?"

"Yes, he came after me to the station to-day. He had a cravat round his mouth and an ulster, but I could see that it was he. I took a ticket for Colchester. He took one also, and made for the Colchester train. I gave him the slip, got the right ticket, and came on. I've no doubt he is at Colchester at this moment."

"Remember, my boy," the merchant said, as they turned from the door, "this is the last of our trials. If we succeed in this, all is well for the future."

"We have tried diamonds, and we have tried marriage. The third time is the charm," said Ezra, as he threw away his cigar and followed his father.

CHAPTER XXXVI.**THE INCIDENT OF THE CORRIDOR.**

Ezra Girdlestone hardly went through the formality of greeting Kate next morning when she came down to breakfast. He was evidently ill at ease, and turned away his eyes when she looked at him, though he glanced at her furtively from time to time. His father chattered with him upon City matters, but the young man's answers were brusque and monosyllabic. His sleep had been troubled and broken, for the conversation of the night before had obtruded unpleasantly on his dreams.

Kate slipped away from them as soon as she could, and putting on her bonnet, went for a long walk through the grounds, partly for the sake of exercise, and partly in the hope of finding some respite. The one-eyed gatekeeper was at his post, and set up a hideous shout of laughter when he saw her, so she branched off among the trees to avoid him, and walked once more very carefully round the boundary wall. It was no easy matter to follow it continuously, for the briars and brambles grew in a confused tangle up to its very base. By perseverance, however, she succeeded in tracing every foot of it, and so satisfying herself finally that there was no diminution anywhere in its height, no break in its continuity, save in its small wooden door, which was securely fastened.

There was one spot, however, where a gleam of hope presented itself. At an angle of the wall there stood a deserted wooden shed, which had been used for the protection of gardener's tools in the days when the grounds had been kept in better order. It was not buttressed up against the wall, but stood some eight or ten feet from it. Beside the shed was an empty barrel which had once been a water-butt. The girl managed to climb to the top of the barrel, and from this she was easily able to gain the sloping roof of the shed. Up this she clambered until she stood upon the summit, a considerable height above the ground. From it she was able to look down over the wall on to the country road, and the railway line which lay on the other side of it. True that an impassable

chasm lay between her and the wall, but it would be surely possible for her to hail passers-by from here, and to persuade some of them to carry a letter to Bedsworth or to bring paper from there. Fresh hope gushed into her heart at the thought.

It was not a very secure footing, for the planks of which the shed were composed were worm-eaten and rotten. They cracked and crumbled beneath her feet, but what would she not dare to see a friendly human face. As she stood there a couple of country louts, young lads about sixteen, came strolling down the road, the one whistling and the other munching at a raw turnip. They lounged along until they came opposite to Kate's point of observation, when one of them, looking up, saw her pale face surmounting the wall.

"Hey, Bill," he cried to his companion. "Blowed if the mad wench bean't up on the shed over yander!"

"So be it!" said the other eagerly. "Give me your turnip, Jimmy, an' I'll shy it at her."

"Noy. I'll shy it myself," said the gallant Jimmy, and at the word whiz came the half of a turnip within an inch of Kate's ear.

"You've missed her!" shrieked the other savage. "Ere, quick, where be a stone?" but, before he could find one, the poor girl sick at heart, chambered down from her exposed situation. "There is no hope for me anywhere," she sobbed to herself. "Every man's hand is against me. I have only one true friend, and he is far away." She went back to her room utterly disheartened and dispirited.

Her guardian knocked at her door before dinner time. "I trust," he said, "that you have read over the service. It is as well to do so when you cannot go to church."

"And why should you prevent me from going to church?" she asked.

"Ah, my lady," he said, with a sneer. "You are reaping what you have sown. You are tasting the bitter fruits of your disobedience. Repeat before it is too late!"

"I have done no wrong," she said, turning on him with flashing eyes. "It is for you to repent, you violent and hypocritical man. It is for you to answer for your godly words and your ungodly and wicked actions. There is a power which will judge between us some day, and will exact atonement for your broken oath to your dead friend and for your cruel treatment of one who was left to your care." She spoke with burning cheeks and with such fearless energy that the hard City man fairly cowered away from her.

"We will leave that to the future," he said. "I came up to you a kindness, and you abuse me. I hear that there are insects about the house, beetles and the like. A few drops from this bottle scattered about the room would keep them away. Take care, for it is a violent though painless poison if taken by a human being." He handed her a phial, with a brownish turbid liquid in it, and a large red poison label, which she took without comment and placed upon the mantelpiece.

Girdlestone gave a quick, keen glance at her as he retired. In truth he was astonished at the alteration which the last few days had made in her appearance. Her cheeks were colourless and sunken, save for the single hectic spot, which announced the fever within. Her eyes were unnaturally bright. A strange and new expression had settled upon her whole countenance. It seemed to Girdlestone that there was every chance that his story might become a reality, and her reason be permanently deranged. She had, however, more vitality than her guardian gave her credit for. Indeed, at the very time when he set her down in his mind as a broken woman, she had formed a fresh plan for escape which it would require both energy and determination to put into execution.

During the last few days she had endeavoured to make friends with the maid Rebecca, but the invincible aversion which the latter had entertained for her ever since Ezra had visited her with his unwelcome attentions was not to be overcome by any advances which she could make. She performed her offices with a heart full of malice, and an eye which triumphed in her mistress's misfortunes.

Kate had betrothed herself that Stevens, the gatekeeper, only mounted guard during the day. She had observed, too, at the time of her conversation with him, that the iron gate was in such a state of disrepair that, even if it were locked, it would not be a difficult matter to scramble through or over it.

If she could only gain the open air during the night there would be nothing to prevent her from making her way to Bedsworth, whence she could travel on to Portsmouth, which was only seven miles away. Surely there she would find some charitable people who would communicate with her friends and give her a temporary shelter.

The front door of the house was locked every night, but there was a nail behind it, on which she hoped to find the key. There was another door at the back. Then there were the windows of the ground floor which might be tried in case the doors were too securely fastened. If only she could avoid waking any one there was no reason why she should not succeed. If the worst came to the worst and she was detected, they could not treat her more cruelly than they had already done.

Ezra had gone back to London, so that she had only three enemies to contend against, Girdlestone, Rebecca, and old Mrs. Jorrocks. Of these Girdlestone slept upon the floor above, and Mrs. Jorrocks and Mrs. Jorrocks, who might have been the most dangerous of all, as her room was on the ground floor, was fortunately so deaf that there was little risk of disturbing her.

The problem resolved itself, therefore, into being able to pass Rebecca's room without arousing her, and, as she knew the maid to be a sound sleeper, there seemed to be every chance of success.

She sat at her window all that afternoon steeling her mind to the ordeal before her. She was weak, poor girl, and shaken, little fit for anything which required courage and resolution. Her mind ran much upon her father, and upon the mother whom she had never known, but whose miniature was among her most precious treasures. The thought of them helped to dispel the dreadful feeling of utter loneliness, which was the most unendurable of all her troubles.

It was a cold, bright day, and the tide was in, covering the mudbanks, and lapping tip against the walls of the Priory grounds. So clear was it that she could distinguish the houses at the east end of the Isle of Wight. When she opened her window and looked out she could perceive that the sea upon her right formed a great inlet, dreary and dry at low tide, but looking now like a broad, reed-girt lake. This was Langston Harbour, and far away at its mouth she could make out a clump of buildings which marked the watering-place of Hayling.

There were other signs, however, of the presence of man. From her window she could see the great men-of-war steaming up the Channel, to and from the Solway Firth with all hands. Those on board appear to have had a very perilous adventure. On the 16th inst. four seamen, a boy, and a young lady named Storey started from Maryport in the Wasp, intending to go to Hartlepool on a pleasure excursion. They eventually landed at the neighbouring port of Workington, and at eight o'clock the same evening started on the homeward voyage from Maryport. They had reached Maryport within an hour, but up to Monday morning nothing had been heard of them. A variety of circumstances led to the supposition that the launch had founders. It now appears that soon a ter leaving Workington the steam-cave went, and the little vessel could make no headway. There was only a small quantity of coal. This was soon exhausted, and then the cabin doors and every available piece of wood were broken up and used as fuel. Owing to some defect in boiler or machinery, this proved useless, and the launch drifted helplessly before the wind. After the furnace fire went out there was no means of signalling, as there was not a single match on board. When Monday morning dawned the people on board found themselves in the middle of the Solway. There was no space boat, no compass, no sail, and no oars. In this emergency Miss Storey (the only lady in the company) took off her skirts, and this was rigged up as a sail. But by this time the launch was rapidly filling with water, and making very little headway. There was no food or water on board. During the whole of Monday the party had nothing to eat. Towards dusk on Monday evening, being unable to steer, they were dashed upon some rocks on a desolate part of the Scotch coast about six miles from Kirkc

CLIPPINGS FROM THE COMICS.

(From Moonshine.)

Epitaph on a Bankrupt Pair.—"David and Jonathan (surname purposely omitted) were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their debts they were not divided."

The mummified cats from Egypt fetched seventy-three shillings a ton for manure. Truly everything has a purr-pose.

If it is not Too late, we wish the genial comedian bon voyage, and we hope, after his trip, he will be able to act with New Zealand success, and secure a good harvest from the Cornstalks.

The Booksellers' Provident Institution, the only representative society in the trade, has determined to initiate a dinner at the Holborn Restaurant in March. Mr. C. J. Longman has promised to preside. All the booksellers will be "bound" to go. Quite a new feature in dining-out.

We hear from Philadelphia that Forepaugh's Show, the rival of Barnum's, has been sold to an English company with £200,000 capital. A lot of money, is it not? The financial papers will hardly say that the Forepaugh Company hasn't a leg to stand on.

Mr. Gladstone did not give a dinner to his supporters on the eve of the opening of Parliament. But Mr. Gladstone has undertaken to meet the London Liberal candidates at a banquet which somebody else is to pay for. If they are in earnest, these Liberal candidates, they must begin to stand at once.

(From Punch.)

EUSTIC POLITENESS.—Squire Roadster: Where are the bounds, my man? Yodel: Gar on with yer! Don't know wheer the 'ounds be, and got a red coat and a big 'oss! Ye oughter be ashamed of yourself.

HAPPY THOUGHT.—Oh, I say, old man, I wish you'd run upstairs and hunt for my aunt, and bring her down to supper. She's an old lady, in a red body, and a green skirt, and a blue and yellow train, with an orange bird of Paradise in her cap. You can't possibly mistake her. Say I sent you! Awfully sorry, old man, but—a'm totally colour-blind, you know. Just been tested!—Exit in a hurry.

"In Kind."—Country Editor's Wife: Oh, John dear! Somebody's sent us such a splendid salmon! (Editor after a moment's thought): Ah, yes—I know—and cheap too! Only half a column?

A WOMAN'S REASON.—Cousin Jack: Then why did you marry him, Effie? Effie: Oh, well! wanted to see the Paris Exhibition, you know!

The LATEST CATCH-LINE.—Good Day! Have you read the report of the Special Commission?

AVENUE THEATRE.—Alexander the Growing, not yet the Great, finds that for some weeks to come there will be no necessity to doctor his bill. He will be wise, however, not to reject any proffered assistance, as from his present success it is evident he cannot get on unaided.

Mr. Parker Smith, the recently elected M.P., appeared in the House looking Partickularly happy.

The Seas-on—Mr. J. L. Toole, until he reaches Australia.

(From Judy.)

ASH-TWISHING!—Affectionate Wife: Whatever have you been doing, John? Dutiful Husband: Ash Wednesday, my dears. Salted fish for lunsh in Civish. Very thristish all afternoon, and took a little soda water—hic!

THE PRETTY HORSE-BREAKER.—Lady Sylvia: Ah! there goes that pretty French woman, Adrienne. Oh, how shocking! Look at her habit flying in the air! How loose it is!—The Duke of Rummywais: Bai Jove! (Watches her out of sight.) Yes; French women, don't you know, sometimes have—er—lose—er—habits.

ONLY SKIN DEEP.—Some one recently took the opinion of experts on the question, "What are we to do with our complexion?" Mrs. Langtry replied, "Use cold water," and Madame Patti said, "Use cold cream." The ever young and lovely, who takes a deep interest in these matters, is curious to hear whether the one is intended as a substitute for the other.

THE BIBBER.—The bibber is a sorry sight. Flaccid, unwholesome, and crapiulous are his features, and he breathes forth noisomeness. He lingers about bars, and cadgets the free drink; he telleth the tale of his gentlehood, and cringeth to the potman, and is moved to tears at the seventeenth drink. His eyes are bleared, and his hand trembleth as with a palsy, and his footsteps shuffle in the ways. He blinksunk unknowingly upon us, nightily he "chucked," and frequently fourteen bairns; and, anon, borroweth 5s. to avoid fourteen days.

TRUE UNIONISTS.—Some philanthropists are urging the working women of London to get up a "union." There is nothing new about this, for women have been trying to get up unions ever since the time of Eve, only what they want is not union among themselves, but union with a better half. Some people's idea of the union is the workhouse; but woman's idea of a union is a house where the husband does all the work and the wife looks pretty when the toiler comes home to tea.

ERIQUEUETTE.—Always adapt your salutations to the profession of a person whom you salute. If you are addressing a toy merchant, say, that you wish him "the top of the morning." He is certain to be pleased.

A Bad Weapon for Secret Service—The repeating rifle.

Nor to BE DONE.—It is impossible to fling stones about with a gin sling. The thing sounds easy enough, but no one has ever done it yet.

A WARM WELCOME.—The French legitimists are a people fertile in resource. A lady of title has sent fannels and a foot warmer to the young Duke d'Orléans, because she hears he has been sent to cool his heels in gaol.

(From Fun.)

TWO-BAD.—Landlord: Ere, I say, master! This 'ere's a bad arf crown you've give me! Tough Customer: That's all right! That was a—bad glass o' gro' as you gave me!

DISTANCE LENDS ENCHANTMENT, &c.—Friend of the family (to the child of artistic parents): I saw your father-to-day, and thought he did not look well.—Child: Very likely—papa looks better in the distance.

A SLEDGE AMOUR.—Tender Mabel: The frost will be terrible to the poor waterfowl.—Spoony Charley: I know one little wild duck, who dotes on it, and I dote on sleighing her.—Perverse Mabel: Slaying her? Cruel man! Poor little duck!

No One More SURPRISED THAN THE STRIKER.—Mr. Fun heartily congratulates all concerned on the termination of the Gas Strike, and trusts to the as-gas-ity of both sides to avoid the necessity of the lessons of the past being "retort" in the future. With the resumption of work, all reifications should cease; the men will find charging retorts more profitable than retorting charges; and though they may feel it hard to work with "black legs," they can, at least, rejoice that they do so with "clean hands."

APPLIED SCIENCE.—Addition: The new baby. Division: Differing in opinion with your mother-in-law. Subtraction: Your wife's milliner's bill. Multiplication: The number of your rate collector's visits after quarter day.

ANOTHER "COONIE!"—Starch the commodity now—this syndicate's "stiff" prices.

A "VANE" BELIER.—Placing faith in a weather-cock.

VERY PARTICK-LAR!—Why is the Partick Division of Lanarkshire like an undesirable and empty house? Because it has lost the Sella it formerly possessed, and now is Tannant-less.

Our correspondent with the Chin expedition informs us that the Chins are hatchin' mischief, and that although the expedition is watchin' for an opportunity, yet they have some difficulty in catchin' them. He adds that owing to the difficulties of transport their kitchin is bad, and that the mosquitos keep them all itchin'.

A Moving Tale—A dog's.

(From Fanny Folks.)

A Kiss AMISS.—Paul: And now, dearest—now—that you have consented to become mine—can I—

can I kiss you?—Virginia: I—I don't know. You never tried!

SHOOTABLE PUNISHMENT.—At Bolton County Court, one Seth Jolly has been mulct in £15 damages for shooting a valuable fancy pigeon on the wing: which was a Jolly shame, and the result serves him Jolly well right, Seth—we.

GOOD OLD BATLEY!—Judge Bayley, of the Westminster County Court, is the oldest judge on the bench, having just attained his eighty-seventh birthday. The point to be noted in this connection is, that, despite the superseding of Newgate, while this judge's court exists it can never be said that the Old Bayley Trials are abolished.

A QUIET TRAINED MARCHIONESS.—The Marchioness of Tweeddale has safely engineered the first train over the new *Forth Bridge*. The feat of this new addition to the ranks of engineers should entitle her to take first place amongst Training belles.

LETTERS OF MARK.—It is said that a post or mail bag dating from 1884, and containing 175 letters, has been discovered in some cellars at Frankfort-on-the-Main. Small doubt but that the writers of the epistles never expected their lines to be cast in such strange places. Our legal contributor points out that missives (good word missives) differed from deeds, inasmuch as though they were signed and sealed, none of them were bound!

VERY FRENCH LEAVE.—The following conversation may be relied upon as absolutely authentic: "Mon Dieu!" exclaimed President Carnot, when the prefect brought the intelligence that the Prince of Orleans had been arrested in Paris. "Why, the prince need not show his face in France! How did you know him?" "Well, M. le President," said the prefect, "I thought it was like his 'cheek' so I ran him in."

ONE STRAIGHT FROM THE ALTAR.—Frank Slavin, whose latest "engagement" in connection with the "ring" is announced, is a most fortunate man. The lady who has just given him her hand and heart is exceedingly devoted to the Australian hero, and so industrious that she has promised, for his sake, to be Slavin "all her life."

A VERY LONG RANOE.—"This new magazine rifle is a wonderful weapon, sor, and so's this new smokeless powder," remarked the O'Bull, as he put down his newspaper. "I see that it's possible to hit a man at 3,500 yards with 'em, sor. Bedad, with a fire-arm of that description in his possession, a British soldier ought to be able to take deadly aim at the enemy before he comes in sight!"

(From Truth.)

An Appropriate Place for a College of Vocal Music—A Do-Re Gallery.

Quotation for Puzzled Observers of the Re-opened Dock Troubles—"Who shall decide when dockers disagree?"

Cupidity Note.—The fashionable heart-tickle: The love of money.

Why the Jubilee Plunger's Friends sent Round the Hat to Him? "To oblige Bonzo."

Financial Note.—Good date for promoting a Cinderella: As Wednesday.

(From Ally Sloper.)

"I can't understand this on Castile soap, as I have talked about," said Mrs. Chamberlain up the other day. "It may be good hastin' stuff, but if it is cast steel, it must be precious hard to get it with it."

"Did she love you?" "I should think so, rayther. Why, she kissed me so quick and often, that one blessed night the friction alone set my moustache on fire, and she hugged me so tight that three of my waistcoat buttons were driven six inches clean into my inside, and couldn't be got out again without my being taken to Charing Cross Hospital to be operated on. That's what I call a gal being something like affectionate."

Priggins, the confirmed old bachelor, says that when you are courting a girl it's bliss, when you get married it's blistér, and when you get a family it's blizzard. As if he knew anything about it!

"Oh, yes, Miss Brown, he, he!" sniggered Poopery. "I'm sure I made quite a favourable impression upon your father—he, he—for I actually took the trouble, don'tcherknow, to run after me with the handkerchief I had left behind, he, he!" Probably he was afraid you would call again to obtain it if he did not," remarked Miss Brown. "He had not looked at it from that point of view.

The following is from a Kentish contemporary and not from an Irish paper, as might have been imagined. "The assault was of the most brutal and bloodthirsty description, and the murdered man is not expected to survive the night."

I'm always as happy as Heaven is high, I forgot that mankind ever sinned; No one on earth is more cheerful than I

When I am three sheets in the wind.

I forget all my misery, trouble, and woes,

And bills that to summons are pinned;

For all my affliction and wretchedness goes

When I am three sheets in the wind.

And I also forget that my rent's overdue,

Which long in my ears have been dinning;

So you really can't wonder I'm happy, can you?

When I am three sheets in the wind.

(The SINGER AND THE WIDOW.

Denbigh Cooper, a professional singer, described further as a private hotel proprietor, of Mostyn-road, Llandudno, North Wales, appeared at Westminster Police Court, to an affiliation summons at the instance of Mrs. Anne Pratt, a young widow, also engaged on the stage, and now residing in Pulford-street, Pinalico. Mr. T. D. Dutton appeared for the complainant, who deposed that she had been over seven years a widow, and she first met the defendant at Christmas, 1883, when they were both fulfilling engagements at the Theatre Royal, Bradford. She believed when he paid her attention that he was a single man. The result of their intimacy was the birth of two children. One, a boy, died, and the other, a little girl, was now 2 years and 6 months old. Defendant, both before and after the birth of the girl, made Mrs. Pratt an allowance of £1 a week until Christmas, 1887, when she (complainant) obtaining an engagement, the amount by consent was reduced to 6s. Defendant paid this irregularly, further reduced the payments, and finally stopped them altogether, and refused to send her £5 which she asked him for. He was in a good position, and had just finished, or was finishing, an engagement of £23 a week at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester.—Defendant: It's only £6 a week. —Complainant: And extra for matinées. —Defendant: No; matinées thrown in. (Laughter.) —Mr. Dutton produced a number of letters which defendant admitted to be in his handwriting, and in these the paternity of the child was admitted.—Defendant asked that they should be read out, and called attention to passages offering to pay complainant the utmost of his means, and asking how she could know his position and what difficulties he had to contend with. He also compared himself to "the goose which laid the golden eggs," which she was trying to kill, and with reference to her approaching marriage to a gentleman he wrote:

"I wish I had been allowed the least chance of cultivating a little affection for the child; but no matter. I am not going to desert her, and I will do my little mite while she is the favoured swain will have to pay for his interference." —Cross-examined by defendant, the complainant said she did not send him a scurrilous telegram, exposing him to his wife. She had refused his offer made ten days ago to take the child, and she would swear she did not know he was a married man until months after their friendship commenced.—The defendant elected to be sworn as to his means, and deposited them before the court. He was in a good position, and had only a lodgings-house at Llandudno, and that though since Christmas he had earned six rupees a week on the stage, he had been for 20 weeks before that out of an engagement, and did not earn a penny.—Mr. D'Eyncourt said no should order him to pay 6s. a week, and he should certainly make a larger order if he had the power.—Defendant: You can make it 50s. a week if you like, because it will never be paid. I would sooner leave the country than pay for the scurrilous things the woman has said.—Mr. D'Eyncourt: And the order will include 30s. costs in addition.

During 1889 8,118 arrests were made in Edinburgh.

The Berlin press continues to give prominence

to rumours of Prince Bismarck's early retirement from the post of President of the Prussian Ministry of State, and mentions Herr von Botticher, Vice-President of the Ministry of State, as his probable successor.

There is really no end to all the exhibitions which are to be held in Germany during the coming summer. One of the most interesting among them will be the international exhibition of works of art, which is to be opened at the beginning of July at Munich under the patronage of the Prince Regent of Bavaria, and that he quitted Turkey on one and for ever.

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THE THEATRES.

OPERA COMIQUE.

If Mr. Gittus Lonsdale still expects to secure his footing as a theatrical manager he will find it necessary to cater with more liberality for the amusement of playgoers. "Les Cloches de Corneville," which superseded his first nerveless venture on Monday, was, after a sufficient lapse of time since its last presentation, certain to renew its attraction had it only been adequately performed; but with Miss Florence St. John, Miss Violet Cameron, and Mr. Harry Paulton fresh in the memories of playgoers as included in the cast at the last revival of this, the most charming of modern comic operas, the present company—with one noteworthy exception—only proved by contrast their incompetency either to sing the music or enact the characters. True, Mr. Shiel Barry—the exception referred to—was there, to arouse by the off-proven dramatic intensity of his acting, as the plotting miser Gaspard, the interest of the audience whenever he was present on the scene; but what of the representatives of the heroines Germanie and Serpentine, of the hero, Count de Lucenay, and of the comic baillée? So unsatisfactory did they prove to the audience, that it may be said suet best" as regards their names; the count in particular, by the ludicrously affected way in which he produced his speaking voice out of what literally seemed to be the hollow of his head, justly moved the audience to derision, which, however, might not have found such audible expression had this weak ambitious baritone compensated in any degree as singer for his foppish foolishness as a speaker. Despite the magnificent acting of Mr. Barry, and the bright melodious music of the opera, it went flat as the singers. Mr. Gittus Lonsdale must manage both his voice and his theatre better before he can hope either to command success or to deserve it.

WASHINGTON MUSIC HALL.

The entertainment provided by Messrs. G. W. Moore and Son at this thriving resort is from every point of view admirable and amusing. The present programme is, by the way, directed by the veteran baritone, Mr. Theodore Gordon, and Mr. Charles Mitchell, the well-known pugilist. Lovers of the so-called noble art who are not displeased when they find a set-to with the gloves introduced into their entertainment, will take great interest in the display of scientific boxing as illustrated by Messrs. Charles Mitchell and Jim Mace. Admiration will also be expressed at the daring feats of navigation executed by Mr. James Finney in a large crystal tank. In addition to eating and drinking under water, Mr. Finney picks up with his mouth coins placed at the bottom of the tank, and many other apparently difficult feats, concluding by "sleeping" under water for a space of three minutes. Middle Cora is a neat and agile trick bicyclist; and an eccentric musical act is contrived by the Messrs. Palmer. Mr. Walter Norman is a capital character vocalist; and Mr. Charles Wallace, as Constable Boozer, is highly diverting, despite several uncalculated-for allusions. Miss L. Jackson's of sailor life with much vivacity; and other comic essays are forthcoming from Misses. P. Bowley, N. Cavendish, M. Distin, and F. Hickman. There are other items of interest contributed by Messrs. H. T. Omer, Fred, and others.

The popularity of "The Middleman" being established in London and also through its Dutch version at Amsterdam, passed, what may be regarded as the thirdfold of public approval on Monday last, at Southport, where this interesting piece was played for the first time before a provincial audience by the touring company, with a success no less pronounced than that achieved in the metropolis. Mr. H. A. Jones, who had travelled to the north to note the presentation and reception of his masterpiece, was summoned by acclamation before the curtain, at the close of the performance, after which the gratified dramatist acknowledged his obligations to the company by entertaining its leading members, including Miss Laura Linden, Miss Verity, and Miss Jessie Lee, at supper. Two other country companies, in neither of which will Mr. R. Pateman play Cyrus Bierborn, are shortly to start with the same play, which is also to be produced at Easter in New York.

The strange statement is telegraphed from Paris that M. Harancourt has just completed for Madame Sarah Bernhardt a play in which the great actress personates the Virgin Mary. Can it be that the success of the Ober Ammergau religious performances has incited Parisian managers to repeat the experiment in a regular theatre? If so, failure may be predicted as the result, even if the play should pass the licenser, for the picc will be too shocked, and the profane would be too indifferent to attend the performance. — The Lyceum and the Globe were the only London theatres which remained closed on Ash Wednesday. — Mr. Toole had the distinguished honour of being the special guest of the Prince of Wales at the farewell dinner given to him at the Garrick Club. The final part took place at Mr. Irving's supper the same night in the Lyceum room of the old Beefsteak Club. — The production of Mrs. Bancroft's little drama, "A Riverside Story," is postponed for the present. — A new poem, written by Mr. Savile Clark, upon the stirring theme of the Relief of Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny, will shortly be recited by Miss Amy Roselle at the Empire. The Rhine legend of the "Lorelei" is the subject of the forthcoming ballet in preparation for the same stage by Madame Katti Lanner. — The members of the German Atheneum in London have just entertained under the presidency of Mr. Carl Ambroster, Messrs. Willard, Bancroft, Tree, Vezin, Cecil, Corney Grain, Pinero, and H. A. Jones. — On Monday, consequent upon the condescension of Mrs. Langtry, the St. James's will re-open with the deferred performance of "As You Like It." — "The Sentry," a new musical farce, with libretto written by Messrs. Remo and M. Watson, to music composed by Messrs. Ivan Caryl and Leslie, is to precede "The Red Hussar" on the occasion of its century performance on the 3rd of March. — "All Aboard" is the title of a new curtain raiser, by Mr. Arthur Law, shortly to be played before "Marjorie" at the Prince of Wales's Theatre. — Miss Dorothy Dene is now playing Helena in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," in lieu of Miss Kate Horke, restored to the Garrick.

A COALFIELD DISCOVERED IN KENT.

For the past two or three years Sir Edward Watkin, the chairman of the South-Eastern Railway and Channel Tunnel Companies, has been directing his attention to a search for coal at a point on the South-Eastern Railway adjoining the experimental heading for the tunnel. The discovery of a bed of coal is now announced by Mr. Francis Brady, C.E., the engineer-in-chief of the South-Eastern and Channel Tunnel Companies, under whose directions the operations have been conducted. His report says:—"Coal was reached on Saturday last, the 15th inst., at 1,180ft. below the surface. It came up mixed with clay and reduced almost to powder by the boring tools. A small quantity of clean, bright coal found in the clay was tested by burning, and proved to be of good bituminous character. The seam was struck after passing through twenty feet of clays, grits, and blackish shales belonging to the coal measures, which at this point lie close under the lime, there being only a few intervening beds of sand, limestone, and black clay separating them. The correspondence of the deposits, with those found in the Somersetshire coalfield, is thus pretty close, the difference consisting in the absence of the red marl at the Shropshire boring. The lines of bedding in the shales are distinctly horizontal. This is an indication on the coal measures, which at this point lie close under the lime, there being only a few intervening beds of sand, limestone, and black clay separating them. The correspondence of the deposits, with those found in the Somersetshire coalfield, is thus pretty close, the difference consisting in the absence of the red marl at the Shropshire boring. The lines of bedding in the shales are distinctly horizontal. 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indication of the state of opinion all over the country on the supreme topic of the day—the report of the Parnell Commission. The electors will, in reality, be asked to say whether the Government of Ireland should or should not be handed over to a party, many of the members of which have been found guilty of criminal conspiracy and other serious offences. Let every Unionist, therefore, do his duty. That duty consists not merely in going to the poll, but in doing genuine hard work for the cause before the election comes on. By repeatedly putting the true issues of the contest before friends and acquaintances, and by stirring up the sluggish to realise the importance of the struggle, the victory can be and ought to be won. But it will not be won unless every individual Unionist joins in the fray with might and main.

With the issue of the official report of the South Metropolitan Gas Company, the curtain finally falls upon what we may call the tragedy of the Gas Stokers' Strike. For a tragedy, indeed, it was. What harm one naturally asks, have the gas stokers' done to the company, as against the harm they have done to themselves? Well, they have cost the company about £50,000 in direct expense, and perhaps half as much more indirectly. The result to the shareholders has been a reduction of their dividend from 13½ (or it might have been 13¾) per cent. to 12 per cent. That is absolutely all; and that is a mere fine-bite to a company which pays such dividends as those. On the other hand, what have the unlucky stokers lost themselves? The answer is terribly simple. The majority of them have lost everything. Thrown out of permanent employment at good money by the insolent folly of their self-appointed leaders, the poor fellows are in a sorry plight, indeed. The only consolation, to the public, in the matter is the warning which trade union leaders and their followers have received, and which will, we hope, deter them effectually from similar disastrous blunders in the future. But that will not help the stokers back to work and wages.

HOW TO GET PAUPERS TO CHURCH.

A Curious Letter.

The following extraordinary epistle, addressed to the chairman, caused great amusement at a meeting of the Richmond Board of Guardians on Thursday:—“The Hermitage, Barnes, February 19th.—Dear Sir.—The small number of inmates attending the Sunday services at the Richmond Union Workhouse Chapel is a deplorable fact, and the guardians have acted wisely in discussing the subject and suggesting means for an improvement of the present condition of things. I have no desire to interfere in any way with your chaplain, though I would be glad to help him in making his congregation more numerous. With that view I beg to make application for the post of assistant chaplain, which I am willing to fill without any fixed salary. I have had considerable experience in reforming the worldly, and I believe I could solve the great problem which is now troubling the guardians. I only ask for payment by results. If there are 300 inmates, I think in the course of a few months I could get 250 of these at the Sunday services. I would only stipulate that the guardians should pay me 4d. per head for every addition to the present number regularly attending the chapel, with an extra 1d. per head for each case in which I bring a Roman Catholic to the Established faith. I would also undertake to make the musical services attractive if the guardians would allow me to put the best singing inmates in surplices, which the lady visitors might make for them. I would, with your permission, introduce full choral service, with an occasional orchestral accompaniment. This I could make easy, as one of my sons plays the oboe and the other the fife, while my daughters are proficient in the cello, the cornet, and the double bass. I can also do a little on the trumpet, and I would willingly undertake the conductorship. I do not doubt that in a very little time, with bright and cheerful services, could bring the whole of the inmates to chapel regularly. As a minister of the Establishment I am very anxious to commence my duty forthwith, and shall be glad if you will lay my letter before the guardians at their next meeting, feeling assured that my inexpensive offer will be gladly accepted. Believe me, yours very truly, PETE THOMAS McCULLUM.”—The guardians declined the offer with thanks.

EXTRAORDINARY OUTRAGE AT YOUGHAL.

It was reported to the police at Youghal on Thursday that a large quantity of salmon nets used in fishing on the Blackwater river and in Youghal Bay, while drying on the Mall Wall were maliciously cut in pieces and scattered about in all directions. No cause is assigned for the outrage, the result of which is to throw out of employment a large number of men by the suspension of the fishing, which opened only on the 15th inst. The police are using every effort to trace the perpetrators.

THE LATE MR. BIGGAR.

A meeting of the Irish parliamentary party was held in one of the committee rooms of the House of Commons on Thursday evening, to make final arrangements in connection with the funeral of Mr. Biggar. The deputation which was appointed on Wednesday to confer with the relatives of the deceased, reported that the family were averse to the idea of a public funeral in Dublin as suggested. It was further stated that the remains would be interred at Belfast.

A WIFE'S GRIEVANCE.

The case of Fisher v. Fisher was before Sir James Hannan in the Divorce Court on Thursday. It was the wife's petition for a judicial separation on account of the misconduct of her husband. There was also an allegation of cruelty, but that was not pressed, the petitioner being a Roman Catholic, and only praying for a judicial separation. The petitioner was the daughter of an English farmer, and of a French lady, and was married to the respondent in 1877, in London, she being then under twenty-one years of age. The respondent was a captain in a Border regiment. Immediately after the marriage he gave way to habits of intemperance. In 1882 she obtained proof of his misconduct, and instituted the present proceedings.—The petitioner corroborated this statement. Shortly after the marriage she came into some money, at her mother's death. This she gave to her husband, who used it for his own purposes, and kept her very short of money. In August last year she went to the Bedford Hotel, Brighton, to meet him; but owing to a communication made to the manager of the hotel she went to the Queen's Hotel, also in Brighton, where she remained the night. On the following morning her husband came to her, and said that he had passed the night with another woman, to whom he had given £10. She had never since then cohabited with him. He was once in an asylum for a short time.—Nellie Cameron, living in Brighton, was called, and stated that Captain Fisher stayed for three days in her house in August last, and passed the night with her on each occasion. He gave her a cheque for £10, which was afterwards dishonoured. She subsequently saw him in reference to this matter. She recognised a photo produced as that of Captain Fisher.—There was no defence, and his lordship pronounced a decree of judicial separation, giving the petitioner the custody of the two children of the marriage.

THE WEST HAM MURDER.

The Inquest.

Mr. C. C. Lewis, coroner for South Essex, opened the inquest on the body of Amelia Sarah Jeffs, aged 15 years, who was found murdered in an unoccupied house, No. 126, Portway, under circumstances previously reported. The court was inconveniently crowded, and some sensation was excited as the articles of clothing worn by the victim were placed on the table. Special note was taken of the scarf with which her death was effected, and her boots. The latter had only been worn a few days before she was missing, and had prominent plate heels, by which it would be easy to trace any impression. Outside the court a large crowd gathered, chiefly composed of women.—The coroner said they were empanelled to inquire into a most dastardly, ferocious, and abhorrent crime. He felt sure they would spare neither time nor trouble in endeavouring to trace the perpetrator of so horrible and atrocious an offence.—The jury retired to view the body, which lay in the neighbouring mortuary, and also to inspect the house and its surroundings in which the body was discovered.—Charles Albert Jeffs, of 38, West-road, West Ham, said—I am a machinist in the employ of the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Company at their Plaistow Works. The deceased was my daughter, and would be 15 on the 12th of next month. I last saw her alive at half-past six o'clock on Friday, the 31st of January. She was then at home. At that time she was sent out to buy some fish at a shop in Church-street. She was quite well, and in good spirits. She had often been to the shop she was sent to, and it would take her about half an hour to go there and back. She did not return. In consequence of her failing to do so, I went to the fish shop about half-past seven. Finding she had not arrived there, I returned home and told my wife that Minnie had never reached the shop. After that I made a further search for her, but without success. That same evening the fact that she was missing was reported to the police at the West Ham Police Station, and heard of more of her until the 14th inst., about half-past one, as near as possible. I received information that her body had been found in an empty house in Portway, and had been removed to the mortuary at West Ham Church. I went there at once, and identified the body. She left school about twelve months ago, and had remained at home since, with the exception of the period between April and September, when she stayed with her aunt at Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. She was also engaged for one month with Mrs. Knox as a nurse girl. She left simply because her mother was near her confinement, and required her assistance. The Coroner:

Had She any Acquaintances,

either male or female, that you are aware of?—Witness: I am not aware of any whatever, nor am I aware that she received any letters, or had any correspondence with any one.—Had you any particular rules with regard to your domestic arrangements? Did you allow her out late at night?—Yes, sir: I had particular rules. I never sent her out late at night. She was my oldest child.—Do you identify the basket produced with the latchkey as your property?—Yes; that is the identical basket she took with her on the night she was missing.—By Mr. Atkinson: The night she was missing was very dark and damp. She was a member of Canon Scott's Sunday school. The road is very badly lighted. Since she was missing another lamp has been added to the thoroughfare close to the house where she was found. The coroner asked that the whole of the clothing should be produced. On being examined, witness remarked that the whole of the clothing, including the scarf, was that which the child wore on the night in question. He also identified the brooch, which was found on the stairs of the house in Portway-road, as belonging to his wife.—By Mr. Atkinson: On the day in question the deceased had been engaged in housework, and went out in the clothing she wore in the house. She was of rather a shy disposition. She went out at 6.30. Witness did not notice any suspicious character; in fact, he did not think of it. In consequence of something that passed between him and his wife she suggested that the empty houses should be searched. That was on the following Saturday, the 1st of February. Witness saw the watchman, and spoke to him about searching the houses. The watchman said he could not get into two or three of the houses, because he had not got the keys. No. 126 was included among the latter.—The Coroner: Did you go over any of these houses?—Witness: I went over only one; namely, 122, the second house near home.—Why did you not go over the others?—Because the watchman told me the others were locked, and no one could possibly get into them. Nothing in particular was said about No. 126, where the child was found.—A Juror: I should have thought, under the circumstances, the watchman or caretaker would have assisted you to get into any of the houses.—Elizabeth Harmer, a little girl, said she lived at 16, West-road. She knew Amelia Jeffs. She saw her out in the street the night she was missing. Witness was standing in the street outside No. 30, West-road, when Amelia came along. Witness asked her where she was going, and she said, “Near West Ham Church.” She was then by herself and went on. She had the basket (produced) with her. Witness first heard she was missing about eleven o'clock the same night. Witness did not see any men loitering about at the time she met her. Witness had never seen her walking out with any young man.—By Mr. Atkinson: Witness was talking to the deceased two or three minutes. When she passed near her, he saw no one there. By the Coroner: That night, about eleven o'clock, witness was in Mrs. Bowles's shop, and then heard that Minnie was lost.—Mr. Jeffs, in answer to the coroner, said he had forgotten to state that before the deceased went to Weston-super-Mare she was in the service of a Mrs. Harvey as nurse-girl for a few weeks. She left because her mistress wished her to remain in all day on Sundays.—By the Jury: My girl never attended any balls or dancing parties, except once at a temperance meeting in connection with the church.

The Police Evidence.

Sergeant F. Forte said: On the 14th inst. Police constable Cross and myself commenced to search the unoccupied houses in the district, beginning at the Portway. Finding that the doors of several houses, including 126, were locked, we went and saw Mr. Roberts, senior, the caretaker. He then accompanied us to 126. We found some of the front doors open. He said he could not let us go into 126 as he hadn't got the key; he never had had it. Police-constable Cross then got over the back and gained admittance that way. He let me in by the front door. Mr. Roberts also entered. Cross went down into the cellars with a light, and I went upstairs. I searched each room as I went up, but saw nothing to excite my suspicion. When on the landing at the foot of the top stairs I found a penny, and upon the top landing I found the brooch produced. I went into the front room. I saw on the floor signs as if something had been dragged, leading from the floor to the window. The dust had been moved. I opened the cupboard door, which was not buttoned, but the door was closed. The body was lying just inside, back towards me. The left knee was just exposed, but the head could not be seen. The child's knees were slightly drawn up. I called to Police-constable Cross. On getting a light we saw it was the body of the missing girl. Finding she was dead I gave instructions not to move her. I then reported the case at the station. Dr. Grogono, the divisional surgeon, attended, and the body was removed to the mortuary. The basket was also lying in the cupboard at the back of her head, and her hat was lying on the top of the basket. All her other clothes were on. There were no blood stains or spots about. The next day I compared the deceased's boots with two prints, apparently heel prints, in the dust on the floor, and they corresponded. There was another floor, and they corresponded. There was another half floor, and they corresponded. The third stair was found up. There was a fastening to the top of the basket.

A bill has been introduced by Mr. A. C. Morton, Captain Verney, Mr. John Leng, and Mr. John Pinkerton to reduce the qualifying period for Parliamentary voters from twelve to three months, without in any way altering the existing law, and repeal the clauses which make it obligatory that the poor rate should be paid on or before January 5th.

lower sash of the kitchen window. We made a thorough search of the house, but only found a broken piece of cord in the top back room and a broken clay pipe (produced).—By Mr. Atkinson: I had noticed that the doors were generally open. The caretaker used a separate key for each house. There was also one other house of which the man had not the key. The caretaker tried to open No. 126 with all his keys, but failed to do so. At the back of the house there were three panes missing, leaving sufficient space for any one to get through with ease. Having entered the house, we found the whole of the doors open. I found the penny and the brooch before I found the body. The coin was about eight stairs up. I saw no footmarks traceable to the window, but not from the window to the cupboard.—Inspector Thomson observed that it was the practice to search all houses that were open in the event of any one being reported missing.—The same course was pursued in this case.—Inspector Wildey: There were no marks of any kind on the clothing, and, as to the jacket, that was unbuttoned after the body had been removed to the mortuary. As to the scarf, that has also been recognised by the father.

Medical Testimony.

Dr. Grogono, divisional surgeon of police, said: On the 14th, just before twelve o'clock, I was called to see the body of the deceased at 126, Portway. I was accompanied by Inspector Thomson. In the top front room I saw the body by the aid of a constable's lantern. I then had the body removed into the room, and there closely examined it. The deceased had been cruelly assaulted. There was a mark of constriction around the throat. The scarf produced was folded round her throat, but not tied. She had been bleeding from the nose and mouth. I then had the body removed to the mortuary and carefully examined it externally. There was a slight bruise on the left knee, and she had sustained serious injury in the abdomen, great violence having been used. The face was swollen and the pupils were dilated. In the constriction round the throat there were particles of wool corresponding with the woollen scarf. The tongue was swollen and pressed tightly against the teeth. The same day I made a post mortem examination. The cause of death was suffocation, caused by strangulation. The general appearance was consistent with death having taken place on the 31st January.—The Coroner: I think, gentlemen, this will be a convenient opportunity to adjourn. An intimation has been made to me about a reward, and at your request I will communicate with the Home Secretary. As regards the West Ham Corporation, I think it better that several of you should form yourselves into a committee, and so approach them on this point.—A Juror: I shall have much pleasure in handing you a cheque for £25 in the possible event of making up £200 as a reward to discover the perpetrator of such a diabolical deed.—Another Juror: And I shall have much pleasure in subscribing five guineas towards the sum named.—The coroner, after expressing his thanks for the ready manner in which these gentlemen made forward, adjourned the inquest to Monday, March 3rd.

Another Missing Girl.

The metropolitan police are now endeavouring to discover the whereabouts of a young girl whose mysterious disappearance from her situation at Highgate is causing great anxiety to her friends. The name of the girl is Grace Terrell, and her age 15 years. Her parents reside at Woodview Cottages, Muswell Hill, and she was in a situation in the Archway-road, Highgate. One evening last week she had permission from her mistress to go home for an hour or two, and left the house presumably for that purpose. She did not go home, however, neither did she return to her situation, and up to the present no tidings have been received of her whereabouts. It is hoped that publicity being given to the case in the press may lead to news being received by her parents or the police at Highgate of what has become of her. She is described as being of fair complexion, hair and eyes dark brown, has an impediment in her speech, and limps on her right leg. At the time of leaving her situation she was wearing a black dress, a black short jacket, a green felt hat trimmed with plaid ribbon, and buttoned boots.

THE FATAL ASSAULT IN THE BOROUGH.

Inquest and Verdict.

S. F. Langham held an inquiry at Guy's Hospital into the circumstances attending the death of Alfred Howe, aged 39, hawker, lately living in Market-street, Southwark, who was killed during a quarrel with a salesman named Lamb, on February 15th.—Lamb has been arrested, and now stands remanded from the Southwark Police Court, charged with causing the death of deceased.—Mr. Bealey, barrister, represented the accused; and Inspector G. H. Stymens, M. Division, attended on behalf of the police.—John Blackman, of Rockingham-street, S.E., deposed that he was a salesman in the Borough market. He was acquainted with the accused, and on the afternoon in question they were standing together in the market. As the deceased was passing, Mr. Lamb touched him on the shoulder with his umbrella and said, “Remember what you have been saying to me to-day. I will see you to-morrow. I will not take a liberty with you while you are drunk.” Deceased then rushed at him to strike him, but some men who were standing by pulled him back. He struggled to get at Lamb, but was prevented for some time, and when eventually he did get loose, he rushed at the accused to assault him. At the time Mr. Lamb raised his umbrella to ward off the blow, and as deceased came on he fell forward on to the umbrella point. The man was so drunk that he could hardly stand alone, and witness believed it was his bad condition which caused him to fall. Lamb did not in any way attack the deceased, but only used his umbrella to defend himself. The deceased was of very drunken habits, and always ready for a row. He was willing to fight anyone, no matter who.—Mr. Arthur Brown, house-surgeon, deposed that the deceased was admitted at five p.m. on February 15th, suffering from two wounds under the left eye. He was unconscious, and remained so until his death. A further examination showed that the eye was pushed forward and the pupil paralysed. The other organs were healthy, and there were no other marks. The cause of death was injury to the brain, which injury could have been produced by a prod from an umbrella.—The jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure.

THE RIGHTS OF LANDLORDS.

At the Board of Trade on Thursday, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach received a deputation of cotton spinners, introduced by Sir William Houldsworth, M.P., whose object was to secure, through parliamentary action, the abolition of the landlords' claim to priority of rent.—In reply, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach said the case of the deputation divided itself under two very different heads: first, the general law of distress; and, secondly, the special hardships arising from its action in their trade. Certainly he could not say anything in favour of the abolition of the law, which was more favourable for the tenant than for the landlord. He agreed, however, that the law ought not to be abused; and some of the cases cited certainly were abuses of the law. He would like to see the matter brought before Parliament by the members for the cotton spinning districts before he put it before the Government. He would, in the meantime, give the question his closest attention.—The deputation proceeded to the Home Office to interview the Home Secretary on the same subject.

A bill has been introduced by Mr. A. C. Morton, Captain Verney, Mr. John Leng, and Mr. John Pinkerton to reduce the qualifying period for Parliamentary voters from twelve to three months, without in any way altering the existing law, and repeal the clauses which make it obligatory that the poor rate should be paid on or before January 5th.

THE RECENT GAS STRIKE. Report of the South Metropolitan Directors.

The report of the directors of the South Metropolitan Gas Company for the half year ended the 31st of December last, which will be presented at the meeting on the 26th inst., states that the working of the half year, but for the exceptional disturbance caused by the labour agitation, would have been of the usual character—showing a good increase of business, satisfactory working in all departments, and notwithstanding an advance in the price of coal, the board would probably have proposed that the dividend should be raised from 12 to 13½ per cent., in place of the 12 per cent. which he accordingly did, and submitted that the article of the 9th was clearly a repetition of the contempt which had already been committed.—The Solicitor-general also read long affidavits made by Mr. Tuohy and Mr. Porter, each of whom denied that they were in any way responsible for the management of the *Freeman's Journal*, the latter in addition setting out that the court had no jurisdiction as far as he was concerned. He then urged that that which had been done was in the highest degree scandalous, and therefore he had to apply for such punishment of the parties who had been guilty of the contempt as would deter others from repeating the offence.

The Case Against the "Freeman's Journal."

Sir C. Russell said he appeared for the *Freeman's Journal* Company, Mr. Tuohy, and Mr. Porter, to oppose the application of his learned friend. He drew attention to the fact that Captain O'Shea first of all furnished particulars to the London newspapers of the proceedings he had instituted for divorce against his wife and Mr. Parnell, and thus invited criticism. Some of the comments of the *Freeman's Journal*, he admitted, were severe, and Captain O'Shea's questionable taste in unboning himself to a newspaper reporter about his wife's imputed dishonour invited them. He quite admitted that some of the comments made in the *Freeman's Journal* ought not to have been made—that he was bound to admit. The temptation was great, but he insisted they were not made with the view of prejudicing the result in the petition for divorce, and he felt quite certain that they would not be repeated. He submitted that the proper persons had not been served, that the process had been misconceived, and further that the court had no jurisdiction against an Irish limited company or over the publisher of a newspaper in Dublin.—Mr. Justice Butt said surely if a man wrote a libellous letter in Dublin and published it in London, and he came within jurisdiction, he could be served.—Sir C. Russell admitted that the will of the *Freeman's Journal* ought not to have been made—that he was bound to admit. The temptation was great, but he insisted they were not made with the view of prejudicing the result in the petition for divorce, and he felt quite certain that they would not be repeated. He submitted that the proper persons had not been served, that the process had been misconceived, and further that the court had no jurisdiction against an Irish limited company or over the publisher of a newspaper in Dublin.—Mr. Justice Butt said surely if a man wrote a libellous letter in Dublin and published it in London, and he came within jurisdiction, he could be served.—Sir C. Russell admitted that the will of the *Freeman's Journal* ought not to have been made—that he was bound to admit. The temptation was great, but he insisted they were not made with the view of prejudicing the result in the petition for divorce, and he felt quite certain that they would not be repeated. He submitted that the proper persons had not been served, that the process had been misconceived, and further that the court had no jurisdiction against an Irish limited company or over the publisher of a newspaper in Dublin.—Mr. Justice Butt said surely if a man wrote a libellous letter in Dublin and published it in London, and he came within jurisdiction, he could be served.—Sir C. Russell admitted that the will of the *Freeman's Journal* ought not to have been made—that he was bound to admit. The temptation was great, but he insisted they were not made with the view of prejudicing the result in the petition for divorce, and he felt quite certain that they would not be repeated. He submitted that the proper persons had not been served, that the process had been misconceived, and further that the court had no jurisdiction against an Irish limited company or over the publisher of a newspaper in Dublin.—Mr. Justice Butt said surely if a man wrote a libellous letter in Dublin and published it in London, and he came within jurisdiction, he could be served.—Sir C. Russell admitted that the will of the *Freeman's Journal* ought not to have been made—that he was bound to admit. The temptation was great, but he insisted they were not made with the view of prejudicing the result in the petition for divorce, and he felt quite certain that they would not be repeated. He submitted that the proper persons had not been served, that the process had been misconceived, and further that the court had no jurisdiction against an Irish limited company or over the publisher of a newspaper in Dublin.—Mr. Justice Butt said surely if a man wrote a libellous letter in Dublin and published it in London, and he came within jurisdiction, he could be served.—Sir C. Russell admitted that the will of the *Freeman's Journal* ought not to have been made—that he was bound to admit. The temptation was great, but he insisted they were not made with the view of prejudicing the result in the petition for divorce, and he felt quite certain that they would not be repeated. He submitted that the proper persons had not been served, that the process had been misconceived, and further that the court had no jurisdiction against an Irish limited company or over the publisher of a newspaper in Dublin.—Mr. Justice Butt said surely if a man wrote a lib

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

The Lord Mayor has consented to preside at a dinner to be held on May 20th, in aid of the funds of the Evelina Hospital for sick children Southwark.

The London County Council has adopted a recommendation of the Standing Committee, prohibiting any member from being concerned as professional adviser for any claimant whose property is to be acquired by the council.

The Queen, through Sir H. Ponsonby, has noticed to Sir J. Puleston, M.P., that she will be happy to patronise the national eisteddfod of Wales, which is to be held at Bangor in the autumn.

A duel has taken place at Tarskoe, between Captain Likhtareff and Captain Borobrazoff, both of the regiment of Hussars of the Guard, who had had some words after a mess dinner on the night before. The first-named was severely wounded, and is not expected to survive.

An International Exhibition of Mining and Metallurgy will be opened at the Crystal Palace on July 2nd, and remain open for three months. The Lord Mayor is the patron of the undertaking, and the Duke of Fife the hon. president of the committee.

In consequence of a severe outbreak of measles at Morley, near Leeds, all the Sunday schools and day schools in the borough will be closed for a month. About 1000 children are unable to attend their respective schools, and twelve deaths have taken place.

The Speaker will give his usual full-dress parliamentary dinners to members of the Government, on February 26th, and to members of the Opposition on March 5th. Mrs. Peel's usual reception after these dinners will not be held. The Speaker will hold his usual full-dress levees on Wednesdays, March 12th, and 19th.

The case of M. Corvinian, the owner of the factory at Antwerp where the disastrous explosion of cartridges occurred five months ago, has been reviewed by the Court of Appeal in Brussels. His sentence, which was originally two years' imprisonment, was increased to five and a-half years, while the compensation granted to the victims was considerably enhanced.

In consequence of the recently reported outrages upon political prisoners in Russia, Mr. George Keenan, the American traveller in Siberia, has published in New York the text of the order of the Russian prison administration. It was dated in March, 1888, and it directed that political prisoners were, from that date, to be treated in all respects as common criminals.

In consequence of representations recently made to the Thames Conservators by a deputation of bargewomen and traders, who complained of the great delay in getting barges through Todenham Lock, it has been decided to widen the cut above the lock, and also the lock itself, to dredge the river below the lock, and to drive in piles to form a lay-by.

The remains of the late Earl Sydney were interred at Chislehurst on Thursday, a large number of the deceased's friends and representatives from the Court attending. Handsome floral tributes were sent by the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Empress Eugenie. The Rev. F. H. Murray conducted the service, assisted by the Rev. G. L. Langdon.

The five boys who escaped from the Gordon Boys' Home, at Woking, have been brought up, on remand, at the Wandsworth Police Court, charged with travelling by rail without paying their fare. The case had been adjourned to give the boys an opportunity of returning to the home. They, however, persisted in their refusal to return, and were sent to prison for seven days in default of paying a fine.

The action for libel brought by Mrs. Georgina Weldon against M. Henri Rochefort, has just been settled by the payment to that lady of £250 and costs, accompanied by an ample apology. The libel in question consisted of uncomplimentary comments on Mrs. Weldon, in reference to her action against the composer Gounod, in which, it will be remembered, she recovered £10,000 damages.

The Home Secretary received a deputation from the Liners' National Federation, who asked his assistance to procure a discussion of the Eight Hours Bill. Mr. Matthews undertook to consult with Mr. W. H. Smith whether any facilities for the purpose could be given. He added that he could hold out no hope that the Government would support any legislation which would restrict the freedom of adult men in the disposal of their own labour.

At a meeting of the London Schools Dinner Association, the provisional committee announced that they had made grants of £450 to different centres in the metropolis. A letter has been written asking the Prince and Princess of Wales to become presidents of the association. March 17th was fixed as the date for receiving a deputation of workers from Toynbee Hall to discuss the question of underfed children in the board schools.

At Marlborough-street Police Court, John Palmer was charged with discharging a revolver at two men named Elliott and Kelly, employed by the Ocean Wave Company at Henley's Circus, with intent to murder them. It was stated that the prisoner presented himself at the doors of Henley's Circus, but was refused admittance, as he was in a state of intoxication. Elliott and Kelly gave evidence as to the prisoner then firing the revolver twice. He was remanded.

The will of the late Mr. William Lock, of Hounslow, has been contested in the probate court. The testator's property was left to Miss Marshall, whom he was under an engagement to marry, and to two of his brothers. His relatives, who were omitted from the will, submitted that the testator was not in a state of mind to make a valid disposition of his property; but Sir J. Flannan considered the will a perfectly rational one, and pronounced in its favour.

Considerable commotion was caused in St. Mary's Church, Southampton, when a woman rose from the body of the church and objected to the banns of her son, which had just been read for the second time. The grounds of objection were that the lad was under age (only between seventeen and eighteen), a sailor in the Royal Navy, receiving only boy's pay, and, therefore, unable to keep a wife. At the close of the service, the woman had an interview with the clergy in the vestry.

From Nice comes the report of the mysterious murder of a masquerader, who, after having attended the Carnival Fête, is supposed to have been led out to the Montaigne-road and done to death there. The deceased was dressed in the costume of Pierrot, and had been stabbed in the body two Pierrot costumes and a hat. The victim may have also fallen in a duel, but nothing is known as yet relative to the circumstances of the death, which cast a gloom over the carnival.

Mr. Baron Huddleston and a special jury have tried an action brought by Mr. Panmure Gordon, a stockbroker, against Sir Archibald Vagliano, to recover damages for alleged misrepresentation in the sale of horses. According to the plaintiff, it was described as a magnificent horse, with grand action, and 230 guineas were paid for it; but the defendant denied having made any such representation. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, with £280 16s. damages, including £15 6s., the cost of the keep of the horse.

An English gentleman, who, with his sister, was making the voyage from Brindisi to Patras, by an Italian steamer, was suddenly seized with giddiness while on deck, fell over the side of the vessel, and immediately disappeared in the sea. Every effort was made to save him, and his sister, half frantic with grief, offered a large reward for the recovery of his body, but not a trace of him could be found. He may possibly have been seized by sharks, whose numbers have been on the increase in the Mediterranean since the opening of the Suez Canal. The name of the

unfortunate gentleman was Captain Bridger, a retired officer of the British Navy.

The Institute of Journalists has now a membership of about 2,000.

The average number of electors in the United Kingdom for each member of Parliament is about 9,000.

It is said that many of the miners in the West of Scotland are now earning 1s. a day, and working six days a week.

The Midland Railway Company paid, during last half-year, £10,391 to their Superannuation and Friendly Society Fund, which now amounts to £240,716.

An Indian gentleman, in the course of some remarks upon English dress, says that "its chief disadvantage is the great time devoted to putting it on."

Robert Hodge, a pure black native of Anquilla, is creating some sensation in Demerara. He is stated to be just 28in. in height, his weight being not much over 40lb.

The teaching profession in France is said to be sadly overcrowded. Within a year for ninety-seven vacancies in various parts of Paris there were 8,463 applicants.

Constable Glynn was fired at on Tuesday evening at Crangefield Railway Station, county Galway, by men in ambush. Five shots were fired, all of which missed the constable, but they struck and riddled the glass of the window of the carriage in which he was riding.

A Marbury correspondent states that twenty-five more arrests have been made in connection with the building of huts on the Clongowes estate, county Kildare, and the charge will be heard on the 27th inst., and in the meantime the accused have been liberated.

The memorial to Christopher Marlowe will be erected on the Danc John Gardens, Canterbury, on the spot at present occupied by the Russian cannon which was brought from the Crimes. The Mayor of Canterbury has issued an appeal to the citizens for subscriptions to the memorial fund.

Mr. Justice Wills has announced that, in future, sittings of the Railway Commission will be held at the beginning of each legal term, when the Court will take all the cases then ready for trial. Urgent matters will be taken at any other than that fixed time.

Dr. Nansen has explained before the Norwegian Geographical Society his project for a new expedition towards the North Pole. His idea is to sail through Behring's Straits to the New Siberian Islands, where he hopes to meet with a current running in a northerly direction.

George Maledon is a deputy marshal of the United States Court. He has executed eighty-three criminals, and on three occasions has hanged six men in a batch. He states that, knowing the nature of their crimes, he has a good deal of satisfaction in dealing with his "subjects."

At Barnstaple, a workman was testing an underground telegraph wire "fusible" with a lighted match for a gas escape, when an explosion occurred. The box cover, weighing one hundred-weight, was thrown fifty yards away, but the man escaped with slight injury.

The Great Northern Railway of Ireland has already paid £65,608 as compensation for personal injuries sustained in the Armath disaster. The company might have provided its rolling stock with an automatic brake and so have avoided the accident at but slightly greater cost.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have accorded their patronage to the theatrical performances which will shortly be given by the officers of the Brigade of Guards at the theatre in Chelsea Barracks, in aid of the Guards' Industrial Home, formed for the education and training of daughters of non-commissioned officers and men of the brigade.

Professor Silvanus Thompson read a paper at the Society of Arts on Secondary and Technical Education in London. He urged that secondary schools should be co-ordinated on the one hand with the primary schools, and on the other with the colleges for higher education, all being under one general administrative department of the Government, with a responsible head.

An outbreak of fire has destroyed a large portion of the Guildhall at Alkmaar, in Holland, a building which was a fine specimen of mediæval architecture. The law courts and the museum are situated in the same block, but the latter fortunately escaped. The archives, however, were lost in part, and considerable damage was done by the flames.

Sir C. Russell presiding at a meeting in Kentington, said he looked to the County Council to do something which would awaken the people of London from the lethargic condition which had hitherto prevailed. There were two parties in the Council, a Progressive and a non-Progressive party, and they coincided pretty closely with the lines of division on general political affairs.

Intelligence has reached Tipperary that several shots were fired on Tuesday night through the windows of Pegorbo House, the residence of Mr. Popham Bell, land agent. Mr. Bell was in Dublin on business; but Mrs. Bell, who has been ill for some time past, and her family were in the house. One shot went through the shutter of a window which was closed, and struck the wall opposite.

Sir F. Burton has written from Algiers to the promoters of the Stanley and African Exhibition, expressing his regret that he cannot be present at a general meeting of the committee, and saying, "I should have wished at this and at every other opportunity to express my hearty admiration of all that Stanley has dared and done. He is to me, and always will be, the prince of African travellers."

The Queen has decided to spend her continental holiday at Aix-les-Bains, whither she will proceed from Windsor Castle towards the close of next month. No precise date has yet been fixed for the royal journey. Her Majesty will stay about a month at Aix-les-Bains, and during her visit will reside in the Maison Motte, a dependency of the Hotel de l'Europe. The Queen will probably return to England about the end of April.

Three months ago Mr. Justice Chitty ordered the payment out of court of a sum of £20,000 to Jesus College, Oxford. A claim was afterwards put in by the charity commissioners, who wished to apply the fund to intermediate education in Wales. The matter came before the Court of Appeal, but Lords Justices Cotton, Lindley, and Lope declined to allow fresh evidence to be adduced, as was desired, and the appeal was, therefore, abandoned.

While the Glasgow Fire Brigade were engaged at a fire in a tenement at Crosshill, two miles from the city, they had another call for a fire in Berkeley-street, in a four-storey building, the contents of which consisted of chairs and timber. In half an hour the roof fell in. The Glasgow Eye Infirmary, which is immediately adjoining, was in danger, but the fire was confined to the chair factory. The damage is estimated at £20,000 to £10,000.

Morgan, in Georgia, has been the scene of an extraordinary row. A crowd of 7,000 people, mostly negroes, gathered to witness the execution of the sale of horses. According to the plaintif, it was described as a magnificent horse, with grand action, and 230 guineas were paid for it; but the defendant denied having made any such representation. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, with £280 16s. damages, including £15 6s., the cost of the keep of the horse.

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two other children vaccinated within fourteen days.

Twenty-six thoroughly well-authenticated canarians died last year.

A needy woman in Connecticut recently offered to sell her body after death to a physician for £2. Eleven deaths in London last week resulted from burns or scalds.

Suffocation caused the death of eleven infants in London last week.

There were 2,793 births and 1,809 deaths in London last week.

Last year the Victorian Treasurer received £291,867 from probate duty.

Fifty-one deaths in London last week were attributed to accident or negligence.

Lord Hartington has written from Gibraltar giving a good account of his health.

The Thames during January provided daily 92,666,682 gallons of the London water supply.

The underground railway from the City to Kennington and Clapham will be opened in July.

All seventy-five women and 185 children have been left entirely destitute by the Llanerch Colliery disaster.

From 1884 to 1887 there were twenty-six cremations in England; in 1888 there were twenty-eight; last year there were forty-six.

The fattest man in the American Congress is George Barnes, of Georgia. He weighs 450lb. (23st.) and is 6ft. high.

A Marbury man has narrowly escaped being the leading feature of a funeral through mistaking a bottle of poison for whisky.

During January Scotch fishermen landed fish of the value of £103,123. This is an increase of £2,939 over the production of January, 1889.

The first Dutch electric tramway will be opened next month. It is to run from the Hague to Scheveningen, a distance of four or five miles.

Martin Tupper's daughter, Miss Ellen Isabelle, has been granted a civil list pension of £75 per annum.

There were again thirty deaths in London from influenza last week. Of these fourteen occurred in the South side of London.

There was not a single death from small-pox registered last week in any of the twenty-eight great towns of England and Wales.

A man was recently tried in Paris for murder. His plea that the deceased man had called him a Prussian was held to justify the homicide, and he was acquitted.

London was last week the healthiest of the twenty-eight great towns of England. The deaths corresponded to an annual rate of 21·3 per thousand.

There are 1,800 newspapers in the United Kingdom which report the proceedings in the House of Commons, but there is room for the representatives of only about fifty of them in the Press gallery.

There were twenty-one deaths from measles in London last week, fourteen from scarlet fever, thirty-nine from diphtheria, 115 from whooping-cough, twelve from enteric fever, and six from diarrhoea and dysentery.

The Boston Library has just secured some letters, written by Christopher Columbus to Leander Deceso, for £400. The date, 1483, would make it appear that he wrote them very shortly after his return from his first voyage to America.

Mr. Ernest Benzoni was to have appeared before Mr. Registrar Giffard on Wednesday, for examination in his bankruptcy. As it was intimated that there was no probability of the bankrupt being released from prison at Newgate until his sentence of three months had expired, the sitting was adjourned till the 18th of June.

Miss Amy Fowler, now Sister Rose Gertrude, has resumed her journey to her future home among the lepers of Molokai. She takes with her presents from New York of the value of £200 dollars, including a photographic camera, a typewriter, a piano, a music box, and quantities of linen.

The Civil Service Supply Association made purchases last year to the amount of £222,605 1s. 9d. while the sales realised £220,633 1s. 9d. in trade at the end of December being valued at £310,981 2s. 6d. This enormous business grew out of the purchase of a chest of tea by a few Post Office clerks less than a quarter of a century ago.

From the Congo it is reported that Captain Vangale has established a station at Banzyville, on the Ubangi, and that the natives in that region are reported as being very industrious. The white population has increased; there are now 430 men, of whom 175 are Belgians; whereas in 1885 there were 230 Europeans only.

Sentence of death has been passed at Worcester Assizes upon Joseph Bowell, Samuel Bowell, and Alfred Hill for the murder of Frederick Stephens, a gamekeeper on the Duke of Aumale's estate near Evesham. The jury were three hours in deliberating, and it was after midnight when they returned a verdict of guilty.

The question of the liability of trustees and managers of the Cardiff Savings Bank for losses sustained by the defalcations of the late actuary has been raised on a summons before Mr. Justice Stirling. On the part of Mr. Peter Davies, whom it was sought to render liable for the losses, it was contended that no negligence had been proved. The arguments had not concluded when the court rose.

A large meeting has been held at Dover with regard to the Easter Monday manoeuvres. The mayor presided, and General Montgomery Moore stated that the marching column on the Saturday would be about 3,000 men from London alone. The meeting decided to provide in the town hall all the accommodation required, and to raise the necessary funds.

Are mothers-in-law of necessity evil-minded persons? In the case of a prisoner at the Worcester Assizes who had conducted himself very strangely in the dock, a police-inspector deposed that a brother-in-law of the accused had predicted that he would feign insanity when on his trial, though when at liberty "there was not a sadder man on the face of the earth." "Very kind of the brother-in-law!" exclaimed Mr. Justice Hawkins, "he seems to have acted like a mother-in-law."

Mrs. Alice M. Lagrove, the twice-married and twice-divorced daughter of Mr. Singer, the millionaire sewing-machine inventor, has just died at her home in New York. Twenty years ago Miss Singer was a prominent member of Parisian society. Her marriage to Mr. W. A. Lagrove was a characteristic French marriage, made by the parents. Incompatibility of temper led first to separation and then to divorce, after which Mrs. Lagrove became a fashionable actress. She has left an only child, and a large estate, stage costumes, and jewellery, valued at £40,000.

The Pope has written a letter to Cardinal Rampolla, desiring him to express his gratitude to all who have taken such part in his sorrow for the death of his brother. Cardinal Pecci, Sovereign, princes, prelates, religious clerics, and laymen are all to be thanked alike. Leo XII. alludes in touching terms to the comfort he has received from the wide sympathy shown for him in this affliction, the loss of his only surviving brother, and especially from the prayers of the faithful, spontaneously offered on his brother's behalf and his own.

Buffalo Bill has the reputation of being as smart a business man as Barnum himself, but the Neapolitans are quite a match for the American showman. There was a great rush to see the first performance there, and the collectors

TURF, FIELD, AND RIVER.

By LARRY LYNX.

Limited as is the area of future event speculation on racing and steeplechasing in our days, there is still sufficient range for too eager punters to burn their fingers both at the legitimate and the illegitimate game. So far as racing under Jockey Club rules is concerned, Pioneer taught premature backers a severe lesson in connection with the Lincolnshire Handicap. The money lost over him, however, is insignificant when compared to that which has been dropped over the scratching of Come Away for the Grand National Steeplechase. Curiously enough, this is the second year that hatters have split themselves on a rock over this Jack o' Lantern. Last year his elimination from the "Derby of the chase" was attributed to a breakdown in his preparation. His scratching for the big race at Aintree next March, according to good Dame Rumour, has two reasons. The first of these is to the effect that his former owner's interest in him had not been properly registered according to the new rules of the G.N.H., whilst his name is stated to be the incomplete registration of his paternity. The while there is no mistake about Come Away's dam Larkaway, it is doubtful if the real good Irish chaser sprang. In the entries for the Grand National he was described as being by Cambuslang, but it is uncertain whether that stallion or the stout Umpire begot him, and if Umpire's name was not mentioned in nominating him for the race, his entry was practically invalid, and had he won, which was more than probable, disqualification would have ensued. Surely the party behind him might have exercised a little common sense, and in sending in this horse's entry have insured against his disqualification. As it is the same gross carelessness which led to Fullerton's victory in the Ayrshire Handicap last September, being declared null and void has brought about a similar state of affairs with regard to Come Away. The only difference is that the error with regard to Fullerton was not discovered until after the horse had won, whilst the Come Away muddle has happened fortunately before the horse was allowed to see the post. It seems to me that the scratching of Come Away is of an exceptional character, and if, as is stated, the horse was not entered according to the requirements of the New Rules, his disqualification must have ensued if he had won. In that case backers could never have had a chance of winning, and, according to all that is reasonable, should never have been called upon to pay up. The case is very like the Ringlet business of some years back, and on that precedent backers would have to pay and look pleasant. Still it is contrary to the second rule of betting, which states distinctly, "In all bets there must be a possibility to win when the bet is made." "You cannot win when you cannot lose," said Admiral Rous, but this Come Away business appears to me to cut up a very one-sided affair, and if backers pay without some grumbling I shall be surprised.

The Grand National this year bids fair to be a very open race. Why Not, who at first monopolised the betting, has given place during the past week to Roquefort. There is not the slightest doubt that if the handsome aptly-named son of Winslow and Cream Cheese could be induced to try his level best he would win the cross-country Derby of the present year of grace; but it is impossible to trust him. A horse that has been overlooked is Lord Coventry, named after one of the old enthusiastic supporters of steeple-chasing proper. He is a game, staying hunter, as he has proved by his victories on the flat, over hurdles, and across country. He is lightly weighted, and it would not surprise me if he landed another Old Joe coup.

The Lincolnshire Handicap wagering has begun to assume a reliable kind of aspect. Laureate is doing work that is remarkably suggestive of his being required to battle for Mr. "Jack Hammond" at Lincoln. He has a big weight to carry, and if he wins with 9st. 2lb. on his four-year-old back he will wipe out all previous records. Another colt who is not at all unlikely to shape as a record leveller is Dauntless, who may break the spell which has haunted three-year-olds on the Carolean since Tomahawk won £20,000 to £3000 was booked about this colt at Windsor.

The "many-headed" in the world of sport who took the trouble to think back and remember what Hanlan, the ex-champion sculler, was in his prime, and compare him to what he is now, will be able to estimate at its true value the real definition of a shattered public idol. After Hanlan had electrified the British public by his defeats of Hawdon and Elliott on the Tyne, we saw no more of him until he was matched to row against the Australian Trickett on the Thames. In the meantime, on the other side of the Atlantic, he had smothered Wallace Ross, and exposed the hollow pretensions of the boat-sawyer Courtney. How he defeated Trickett, Laycock, Ross once more, Boyd, Trickett again, and then sledged for fresh scallops to conquer is a matter of aquatic history. He had then reached the acme of his fame, and so easily had all his victories been won, that any man who ventured to express a disbelief in his invincibility would, in those days, have been considered a fit candidate for Earlswood or Hanwell. Hanlan, however, like many a good man before him, is but mortal, and after pulling through a severe attack of typhoid fever his decline commenced. Then came his defeat by Beach, and subsequently that curiously in-and-out performing sculler, Peter Kemp. This stage of Hanlan's career is, what I take leave to call the passing of Hanlan. Now comes the irony of fate which shows up the late champion sculler as a very fine and large sample of "How are the mighty fallen!" Since poor Seale's death, Hanlan in common with a lot of other scullers has been expressing his own particular readiness to row any man in the world for the championship. In doing so, he has somewhat unwisely managed—to use a vulgarism—to hit both O'Connor, of Toronto, Seale's last opponent and his own old protégé, as well as his (Hanlan's) conqueror Beach on the raw. The result is that O'Connor before sailing from San Francisco en route to Australia to meet the best oarsmen the Antipodes can produce, offered before he left to bet Hanlan 2 to 1 to any amount that he would row him any distance he liked over any course, whilst Beach declares he is so disgusted with Hanlan's blunting that he has placed a £100 deposit in the hands of a well-known Sydney sporting man to bind a match with Hanlan. If Hanlan accepts, Beach is ready to row him once a month for the next twelve months. And yet, years ago, if O'Connor and Beach had made similar proposals to Hanlan, said proposals would have been regarded as so much blasphemy.

It has been said—and with some reason—that this old country is a played-out sort of sphere so far as our professional athletic and aquatic champions are concerned; but a very different kind of story has to be told with regard to our amateurs, who for pluck and perseverance can still hold their own with any non-professional foreigner. A splendid instance of this was given in the contest for the Southern Counties Cross Country Championship, decided on Croydon race-course the other day, the illustrator being James Kibblewhite, of Swindon, who fairly won his spurs as champion under remarkable conditions. It is common knowledge now that Kibblewhite lost one of his shoes before completing the ten miles' championship course over outside country of the very worst kind. The published accounts differ as to how far Kibblewhite had to go from the time he "cast a plate." Putting it at the shortest—say three miles or so—the ordeal of getting over even that portion of the journey, with hedge, ditches, and stony roads to cope with is one which few would care to face. One hears occasionally of such a phrase as "the gamest runner who ever put on a shoe" applied to very lucky winning performers; but what about Kibble-

white? the pluckiest of plucky pedestrians who in a ten miles race, lost one of his shoes three miles from the finish, stuck to his task with a tenacity which deserves to rank as a far better record than many apocryphal performances which at present figure in specialists' timetables. Considering the disadvantage under which Kibblewhite laboured in winning the Southern Counties' Championship, the difference of his time, 86min. 57.3sec., in running ten miles, as compared with the time, 55min. 54sec., achieved by W. H. Morton, the winner of the northern championship at Manchester, over the same distance of ground, which has been commented upon to the dispraise of Kibblewhite's performance, is easily accounted for.

Apart from the Waterloo Cup the past week has been a busy one so far as racing under G.N.H. rules is concerned for the saddling-hall has been kept ringing every working day. Sport, however, has been more remarkable for quantity than quality. At the postponed last stage of the Plumpton meeting, The Saint, in the Kingman Hunters' Steeplechase had a bloodless victory. Marshall and Crofton, on both of whom odds were betted for the respective races won, but a head victory only was recorded in each instance. Eight Bells, after scoring three victories in succession, was beaten by a short head by Seamer in the Clayton Studding Hurdle Race, and other victors were Acheen and Cameronian. The trainer of Eight Bells was fined one sovereign for running in wrong colours. These incidents are so often happening at small meetings that it is quite time the authorities imposed a heavier fine for such carelessness.

There were good fields at the Doncaster Hunt meeting on the opening day, but class was poor. The first race, the Stapleton Park Steeplechase was a chapter of accidents. The favourite, Sheridan, refused at the ditch out of the straight, and knocked Bangor out of his stride. Spaniel and Gherkin likewise refused, and Tiny Tittlemouse being the only one to clear the obstacle, had matters all his own way, and brought of a 10 to 1 chance. The other events call for no comment. On the second day Hamlet won his match with Sister Mercy. Odds were betted on him, and when he fell after going half a mile his friends must have wished it t'other way about. On being remounted he went after his opponent, and caught her, and then Sister Mercy refused, and her jockey waited for the favourite to show her the way over. Hamlet not only did so, but also showed the way to the winning post, which he reached four lengths in front of Mr. Botterill's grey. Mr. C. J. Cunningham won a couple of races on Lottery, the bearer of a dead and gone famous horse's name—did not Lottery win the first Grand National with the celebrated Jim Mason up, and after taking the wall in a flying leap jumped the hurdles across the run in, and in so doing cleared the tremendous leap of 5ft.—and Burton, both of whom were favourites. Brutus D'Or, supposed to be a good thing for the Try Again Steeplechase, had to lower his colours to Sweet Ethel, and Barnard and Veagean accounted for the other events on the card. In the last race Mr. C. J. Cunningham, who rode Helmet, the third horse, neglected to return and weigh in, and Helmet was disqualified for a place. Mr. Cunningham, like Captain Owen last week, set a bad example to gentleman riders of less experience by this act of carelessness. These two gentlemen frequently act as stewards at meetings, and they cannot be too careful in attending to these minor matters. When the younger school of horsemen find such old tried hands guilty of these little transgressions, they are apt to follow suit, for a bad example is always contagious. Captain Owen has apologised, and so, no doubt, will Mr. C. J. C.

The two days' meeting at Windsor was not remarkable for particularly interesting sport. With Odalisque out of the way Pretender easily won the Ascot Hurdle Race, and Theon, a strong paddock pony, was beaten by Zeletes in the Crown Hurdle Race on the opening day, when, of course, The Saint won his race. On the second day, after two odds on chances, in Links and Abaddon, had got home, three warm favourites in Trundell Hill—who bolted after the first fence—Cabin Boy and Spendthrift were beaten by Philip Augustus, Longback, and Thaddeus respectively. Cabin Boy and Spendthrift were beaten by Philip Augustus, Longback, and Thaddeus respectively. Longback, however, brought off a even money chance in the last event.

Jake Kilrain, the American pugilist, although a nice enough young fellow, socially is evidently an over rated man. We took him as we do most professionals from across the herring pond, very much at his own estimation when he fought Jim Smith. His most recent show last week at San Francisco when he was well beaten in a fight with small gloves with Jim Corbett, a local boxing instructor, makes out Smith's pretensions to championship class—if possible—worse than ever.

Although there was little outside show of public interest in the Waterloo Cup, prior to its decision, an enormous crowd repaired to Alcester on the opening day to witness the first and second rounds of the great canine tournament. A start was made at Hill House, and trials were run off rapidly. At first much confusion reigned owing to the big crowd. Eventually the sport settled down into a satisfactory groove, but after the Carrs had been worked, disasters rapidly befel the favourites. In the very first course Lecturer went down before Dolon, whilst later, Mepisil, Arithmos, Troughend, and Knocknunny Boy succumbed to the fortune of war. Fullerton performed in brilliant fashion in his first essay, as in a nice short course he went a great pace from slips, and never gave Flemon a chance except at the death. In the second round he met Glenogie, and polished off that crack in splendid style. It was known at the eleventh hour that Gweena was, like her kennel mate, Gladiola, very much amiss from natural causes. Both came out of the first round in triumphant fashion, as did Scaley and Bonnie Scotland, but the second round proved fatal to Gweena, Scaley, and Bonnie Scotland, who were beaten by Barere, Monkside, and Blackie Gale respectively. It was very unfortunate for Sir R. Jardine that Gweena should go wrong as she is a remarkably clever bitch, and her defeat was a grievous disappointment to the supporters of the Castle Milk kennel. Gladiola, of the formidable trio, alone escaped the second round.

It required some enthusiasm for the sport to go through the second day's coursing on the Alcester plains. Rain and snow were succeeded by a nasty haze, which considerably interfered with the view of the third round of the Cup, and the general body of spectators had to imagine the brilliant course Fullerton ran with Monkside as it ended in the mist. Pins and Needles ran a fine trial with Dolon, which she won; and Donald o' Kane beat Glenmara in a pumping course. After the fourth round of the Cup, in which Donald o' Kane, in a smartly run trial, put out the favourite, Pins and Needles. Fullerton beat Smack after a course of moderate length, and then Fullerton met Gladiola, and, stretching away from the slips at a terrific pace six lengths ahead of the bitch, swept round with the hare, and scored first. Pins was a good one, and stood up well; but Fullerton won with plenty to spare. Green Fern by beating Lindrick made up with Fullerton, Donald o' Kane, and Fullerton the last four.

In charming weather, which was a vivid contrast to that of the preceding day, the Waterloo Cup final ties were threshed out on Friday. The ground on which the concluding trials for the "Derby of the Leas" were run has not been used for some years, but no better venue exists in the district.

The company was again a big one, and it is to me personally a pleasing duty to record the fact that throughout the three days' couring the attendance at the Alcester flats has been larger than has been seen for years past. In the fifth round of the Cup Donald o' Kane was easily

beaten by Downpour, and Fullerton had no difficulty in disposing of Green Fern. Thus the representatives of Colonel North's and Mr. Trevor's nominations were left to fight out the finish. When they met, a grand hare was found. Fullerton's pace at once took him from slips with a few length's lead, and, nearing the hare, the crack steered himself in beautiful fashion, and scored six times consecutively. Downpour now put in two, but Fullerton would not be stalled off, and, getting possession, shifted "puss" thrice. Downpour worked the course to the bitter end, but Fullerton was always there, and wound up with a grand win when Downpour killed in the drain. Fullerton thus improved on his last year's victory for Colonel North when, it will be remembered, he divided with his kennel master Trouhend, and confirmed the anticipation of the result given in this column in last Sunday's edition of the People. Had not Gweena gone amiss it is not improbable that she would have run up.

WALRUS.—It can hardly be in good condition, for it is quite out of season, and were too crowded just now to give an agreeable recipe.

X. Y. Z.—We gave a recipe lately, and cannot repeat it, and should hesitate to advise you to use it if you are troubled with "a number" on your head; we should say consult a doctor.

GROCER.—We know of none we can recommend.

QUEEN.—Attention to general health will do more for you than anything else.

E. W.—We do not think you could do it successfully.

SOLDIER.—Fuller's earth put on damp and allowed to dry will probably do it.

NOW PLUS.—We do not enter into manufacturing questions, and except from that point of view we cannot understand your question.

E. V.—Probably the water deposit is the cause of the unusual flow, but to try to remove the incrustation with an acid would be almost certain to injure the pipe. This would be a dangerous matter, and might cause disastrous explosion. We strongly advise you to cease to use the apparatus until we get a new coil.

THERMOPHOTOGRAPH.—We do not know of the patent holder, and cannot tell you to whom to get it.

MARSH.—You were quite right to use soda or washing powder in the water. You may, however, add a little powdered borax in preparing the washing water, as the borax helps to keep in the colours. Make a good soap lather in hot water, and allow it to cool, then wash the frocks as quickly as you can in that. Avoid rubbing in soap as much as possible, and rinse them out at once. This is the best advice we can give, but some of those pink colours will go, no matter what care you take.

W. B.—A little diluted oxalic acid is about the best thing, but we seldom find them look very well after they have been stained.

NELLIE.—Wash them in oatmeal.

and a soft cloth repeat, if necessary, the second time, using

water and spirit of wine for the paste.

WALRUS.—It can hardly be in good condition, for it is quite out of season, and were too crowded just now to give an agreeable recipe.

X. Y. Z.—We gave a recipe lately, and cannot repeat it, and should hesitate to advise you to use it if you are troubled with "a number" on your head; we should say consult a doctor.

GROCER.—We know of none we can recommend.

QUEEN.—Attention to general health will do more for you than anything else.

E. W.—We do not think you could do it successfully.

SOLDIER.—Fuller's earth put on damp and allowed to dry will probably do it.

NOW PLUS.—We do not enter into manufacturing questions, and except from that point of view we cannot understand your question.

E. V.—Probably the water deposit is the cause of the unusual flow, but to try to remove the incrustation with an acid would be almost certain to injure the pipe. This would be a dangerous matter, and might cause disastrous explosion. We strongly advise you to cease to use the apparatus until we get a new coil.

THERMOPHOTOGRAPH.—We do not know of the patent holder, and cannot tell you to whom to get it.

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PERSONAL.

JENNIE.—All matters satisfactorily arranged. You can see father if you want it. Come to us as usual.

A BUSINESS MAN.—Widower, with a son, aged 15, would like to marry. Address, in confidence, to Fred. I. The Grove, Harley-court-road, South Lambeth.

LATE of Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.—WILLIAM JAGER is requested to communicate with his brother, E. R. Jager, of H. M. S. *Imogene*, Constantinople, who will do all that is necessary.

If this should meet the eye of W. J. S. BRADLEY, he will through the death of his mother, bear something to his advantage by applying to R. NETTING, 22, Grove-road, Gray's Inn.

If JAMES ENNIS, cabinet-maker, has heard of 22 years ago at 13, Church-street, Spitalfields, will communicate with ANN HOLLIS, 142, Aldermanbury-road, Bermondsey, he will hear of something to his advantage.

UNCLAIMED MONEY DUE TO A NATIONAL BANK.—Barrett, Bradley, Blundell, Barnes, Bartlett, Becher, Blackwell, Cunniff, Curzon, Cave, Christie, Connor, Campbell, Carswell, Christian, Dugmore, Easton, Ennis, Fisher, Ford, Fytche, Gibson, Gordon, Hart, Jones, Lott, Lovell, May, Merton, Milner, Morgan, Molton, Ross, St. John, Mackay, Mannheim, North, Prescott, Peterovich, Rich, Rochfort, Schwerin, Shearer, Sparrow, Sullivan, Schlesier, Stephen, Verney, Verney, Vernon, W. G., Williams, their representatives, or particulars are known. Name, £1,000. Copy of any advertisement made before 1st January, 1875, to—*The Bank*, 22, Bell-yard, Temple-bar, London, W.C. Will be searched.

DEATH.

An affectionate remembrance of JEMIMA ANN, wife of R. BLICK BRITTAH, who departed this life on the 16th February, 1888. Interred at Nunhead.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

GENERAL SERVANT, 16, fond of children, 12 months' character, wages £5 weekly.—Minnie C. Hetherington's, 16, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, 17, country girl, 18 months' character, wages £5.—M. H. Hetherington's, 16, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 21, tall, country girl, 5 months' personal character, can cook nicely, wages £5.—Victoria-street, Belgrave.

PLAIN COOK, age 21, soups, fish, entrees, sweets, bright, quiet girl, 7 months good personal character, wages £5.—C. 19, Victoria-street, Belgrave.

WANTED, a strong, willing GIRL, age 16 to 18 years, General Servant.—Apply, Mrs. J. L. Park-road, West Green, Tottenham.

TWO GENERAL SERVANTS, age about 22, wages £12, to live together.—Mrs. B. Hetherington's, Myddleton Hall, Upper-street, Islington, N.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 15, able to do plain cooking & little washing, 3 months' character, wages £5.—Fancy, 21, Queen's-road, Belgrave.

UNDER HOUSE AIDS, 17, fond of children, good plain needlewoman, 4 months' character, wages £5 to £12.—Mary, Hetherington's, 17, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 17, respectable, neat, 18 months' character, wages £12.—Amelia, Hetherington's, 16, Edgware-road, W.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 18, good character, wages £12.—Eliza, Hetherington's, Myddleton Hall, Upper-street, Islington.

YOUNG NURSEMAID, are 14, bright, and very willing, wages 2s weekly—Emma, Hetherington's, Myddleton Hall, Upper-street, Islington.

GENERAL SERVANT, are 20, tall, neat appearance, knowledge of cooking, 2 years and 6 months' personal character, wages £12.—Apply, Alice, Hetherington's, 338, Mile End-road.

GENERAL SERVANT, are 20, country girl, bright appearance, able to do plain cooking nicely, 9 months' personal character, wages £12.—Apply, Edith, Hetherington's, 338, Mile End-road.

GENERAL SERVANT OR NURSE, age 19, strong, healthy girl, very fond of children, and used to household work, 12 months' character, wages £12.—Apply, Clara, Hetherington's, 338, Mile End-road.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

PLAIN COOKS wanted, age 25 to 35, 2 in family, wages £5.—Mrs. A. Hetherington's, 16, Edgware-road, E.C.

KITCHENMAID, about 24, emigrant kept, wages £5.—Mrs. Y. Hetherington's, 17, Victoria-street, Belgrave.

COACH DRIVERS.—First-class Body Makers and Improvers wanted.—A. MACKENZIE, 27, Walnut Tree Walk, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, food white SHIRTS, MACHINISTS, also BUTTON-HOLERS; indoors; best work and prices.—E. New-street, Brompton-road.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 18 to 25, plain cooking, 8 in family, very uncomfortable place, wages £12.—Mrs. R., 170, Victoria-street, Belgrave.

GOOD GENERAL SERVANT, 21, in family, no washing, early dinner, wages £5 to £10.—Apply to Hetherington's, Myddleton Hall, Upper-street, Islington, N.

NURSE-HOUSEMAID, age 17, easy place, wages £5.—Mrs. A. Hetherington's, Myddleton Hall, Upper-street, Islington, N.

HEAD LAUNDREY'S WANTED.—The Guardians invite applications from experienced persons for the office of HEAD LAUNDRESS at the SCHOOL TANNER'S END, UPPER EDMONTON. Wages £50 per annum, rising at the rate of £1 annually until a maximum of £25 is attained, together with ration, rent-free, uniform, and a further quarterly payment of £1 conditional on good behaviour; the annual increase will be subject to the approval of the Committee of Management.—Candidates must be able to read and write, and must not exceed 50 years of age. Preference will be given to those who have had experience in a public institution and are accustomed to cooking by steam and gas. Printed forms, duly filled up and accompanied by copies only of recent testimonials, are to be delivered by or before 6 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, the 28th February, 1890. Selected candidates will be written to.—18th February, 1890.

SITUATIONS VACANT.—(CONTINUED.)

By order, CHARLES F. DORRELL, Clerk to the Guardians.

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WANTED, food white SHIRTS, MACHINISTS, also BUTTON-HOLERS; indoors; best work and prices.—E. New-street, Brompton-road.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 15 to 17, small family, no washing, wages £5 weekly.—Apply, Mrs. H., 18, Burton's, 238, Mile End-road.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, age 18 to 25, for small house, no cooking, willing to assist in business, good wages, £5 a week.—Apply, Mrs. H., Hetherington's, 338, Mile End-road.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, age 18 to 25, must be able to do little plain cooking, 2 in family, wages £5.—Mrs. C., 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, age 16, no cooking, able to assist generally, wages £5 to £10.—Mrs. B., 6, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction.

HOUSE and PARLOUR-MAID in small family, age 18 to 25, good wages, wages £5 to £10.—Mrs. K., Hetherington's, 16, Edgware-road, W.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, age 20, 2 in family, no washing, wages £5 to £10.—Mrs. B., H. Hetherington's, 16, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish-town.

NURSE wanted, age about 25, for 1 baby, had experience, wages £5.—Mrs. A. Hetherington's, 16, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish-town.

PLAIN COOK wanted, age about 25, in family, wages £5.—Mrs. P., Hetherington's, 16, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish-town.

GENERAL SERVANT, about 25, in family, washing sent, £5 a week.—Mrs. W., Hetherington's, 16, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish-town.

YOUNG GIRL wanted, about 16, to assist working house-keeper, only 1 in family, £5 to £6 weekly.—Hetherington's, 16, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish-town.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, able to cook, not under £2, small family, another kept.—H. Oaklands, Berkhamsted, Herts.

WANTED immediately, good GENERAL SERVANT, £5 weekly for plain cooking.—Mrs. H., 12, Rectory-place, Woolwich.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted, 8 in family, housemaids' £5 weekly.—Mrs. H., Caterham House, Battersea Rise, Clapham Junction, S.W.

COOK and HOUSE and PARLOUR-MAID wanted, £16 to £22, good General Servants may go; for elderly lady 22, good house-keeper, £18 to £20, good personal comfortable situation.—Mrs. Pipe, 16, Edgware-road, Hyde Park.

TWO YOUNG SERVANTS wanted, age 17 or 18, to live together, the one as general servant, the other as house-maid, small family, £5 weekly.—Mrs. O., Hetherington's, 16, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish-town.

GOOD GENERAL SERVANT wanted, wages £12, small family, house-keepers—Apply to F. W. Hetherington's, 16, Leonard-place, High-road, Kentish-town.

NURSE-HOUSEMAID to 1 baby wanted, wages £16 PANTRY-MAID, wages £16. KITCHENMAIDS and SEVERAL HOUSE and PARLOUR-MAIDS, good wages, £16 weekly to F. W. Hetherington's, 16, Queen's-road, Bayswater.

SITUATIONS VACANT.—(CONTINUED.)

APPRENTICE wanted (sharp Lad), to learn Bicycle and Tricycle Engineering in large steam eng. factor.; will be thoroughly taught; premium required, returned as wages.—G. Clelemon, 24, Blackfriars-road, S.E.

COOK (Good Plain) wanted, for a family of 5 or 6, in the Kensington district, 2 other servants and room kept, £10. would require a convenient servant; would secure a good home and fair wages; can any lady recommend one?—Address, Cook, "People's" Office, Millford-lane, Strand.

12s. OR A WEEK. Salaries offered either sex (able to write everywhere). The work can be done evenings, samples, &c., to commence at once) sent for, £10.—SMITH AND CO., Chester-ton-road, North Kensington, London, Genuine.

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FRIDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Parnell Commission.

LORD BRAUCHAMP gave notice for Tuesday next to take the Government what course they proposed to take in this House with regard to the report of the commissioners appointed under the Special Commissioners' Act, 1888.

Registration of Land in Ireland. Lord BELMORNE asked what were the intentions of the Government on the subject of the registration of land in Ireland.—Lord Montagu believed that a better system of land registration in Ireland would be a public good.—Earl CADOGAN said the Government were fully alive to the importance of the matter.—The House adjourned at 5.35.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Pigott and Major Le Caron.

MRI. MATTHEWS, in reply to Mr. Labouchere, said he was informed that the only money found on Pigott after his death and brought to this country consisted of a very small sum in silver and copper. A remittance was received by him, presumably posted by him on the 22nd. It contained a £10 note, which had been paid to Pigott by Mr. Houston in September, 1888; also a £10 and a £5 note, which Mr. Soames had drawn from the bank, one in August and the other in September, 1888.—Mr. LABOUCHERE asked whether the reports of Le Caron to Mr. Anderson, which were paid for with public moneys and sent to Le Caron, were now in safe official keeping; and whether Le Caron had received any further money from the Government since he gave evidence before the late special commission?—Mr. C. GRAHAM wished to know whether Le Caron was employed for the first time by the Government now in power, or passed over by the Government lately in power? (Laughter).—Mr. MATTHEWS replied that all the material facts were stated by Le Caron in his evidence, to which he would refer the hon. member. As to the first question, the documents placed at the disposal of Le Caron to enable him to give his evidence had all been returned to Mr. Anderson. The answer to the latter part of the question was in the negative.

LORD WOLSEY and the War Office. Mr. LABOUCHERE asked whether the publication in the current number of "Harper's Magazine" of the article on "The Standing Army of Great Britain," by Lord Wolsey, constituted an infraction of the Queen's Regulations.—Mr. STANHOPE said he was of opinion that it did not. Independently of that consideration the Government thought that members of the headquarters staff were bound to abstain from discussing in public questions affecting the War Department. He had been in communication with Lord Wolsey on the subject, and he informed him that the article in question was more than a year old. He was quite sure that it was far from Lord Wolsey's intention to infringe the rule, and the master would, no doubt, not happen again.

The Report of the Special Commission.

MRI. CONN asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government proposed to take any step as to the report of the special commission, after the decision of the House had been taken upon the resolution, of which he had given notice.—**MRI. W. H. SMITH**: The matter has never been raised nor considered by her Majesty's Government (hear, hear, from the Opposition).—Mr. LABOUCHERE asked whether the Treasury had asked for, and had been furnished with, a list of the witnesses before the commission, and if so, with what object?—**MRI. JACKSON**: No such information has been asked for or furnished to the Treasury, which has no knowledge on the subject.—**MRI. LABOUCHERE** asked the First Lord of the Treasury for the assurance that a list of the witnesses would be furnished before a vote for expenses was asked for.—**MRI. W. H. SMITH**: I can scarcely give such an assurance, as we have no information whatever, directly or indirectly.—**MRI. LABOUCHERE**: Do the Government contemplate paying for any of the witnesses who came before the special commission?—**MRI. W. H. SMITH**: We don't contemplate paying any expenses or meeting any expenditure when not asked for.—Replying to Mr. Wallace, **MRI. W. H. SMITH** said he found it probable that the discussion on the address would not be concluded that evening, and the Government would not ask the House to consider the resolution on Monday. Further, it would be inconvenient to the Irish members that the debt should be entered upon at an early day next week. The circumstances of the case were, in his opinion, urgent; and therefore he proposed to come to some understanding in course of the evening as to the day on which the debate would be taken, and would make a statement before the adjournment of the House. He hoped it would be possible to take supply in the course of next week—supplementary estimates—and in that event he would have to give notice to the House to give facilities. For the debate on the motion he should probably fix Monday, the 3rd of March, but he desired to meet the convenience of hon. Members.—In answer to Mr. Healy, **MRI. W. H. SMITH** stated that he could not let next week pass without taking some supply.

THE ADDRESS.

MRI. J. ROWLANDS resumed the debate on Mr. Stanhope's amendment in favour of introducing a measure for establishing parochial councils. He wanted the whole scheme of London local government perfected.—**MRI. WHITMORE** wished it to be understood that Conservative members were quite anxious as to whether district councils should be formed, and that other systems should be perfected. He hoped that when large displacements took place through street improvements—or the action of landowners, there would be some power under which adequate provision should be made for the poor.—**MRI. BARTLEY** said there was a burning desire on the part of Radical members to get the gas and water under the control of the County Council. Ten years ago those very gentle men prevented these interests being bought up by a Conservative Government at a price immensely less than that now proposed.—**MRI. RITCHIE** said the questions included in the amendment would certainly be found quite sufficient for a whole session, and the measures proposed would form no meagre programme for the whole Parliament. (Hear, hear). He was struck with the fact that when in opposition, Radical members desired to press forward measures to which they entirely objected when in power.—**MRI. CAMPBELL BANNERMAN** expressed a hope that the question of Scotch allotments would be dealt with this session.—The House divided, with the following result:

For the amendment 181

Against 254

Majority 73

Free Education.

MRI. A. CLACON moved an amendment to the Address in favour of free education being given to England. He contended that if the Government were wise they would give to the working classes a national and progressive system of education based upon the common s-s and common good will of all classes.—**MRI. S. BUXTON** supported the amendment.—**SIR R. TEMPLE** opposed it, and praised the voluntary school system in England as one of the chief glories of our institutions. He maintained that the remission of fees would entail a heavy burden upon the exchequer, as well as a great loss to the national resources, and stated that the principles advanced by the mover of the amendment were radically unsound.—**SIR W. HART DYKE** contended that what was more or less a terrible operation for Scotland would be one of great perplexity and difficulty for England. Roughly speaking, if free education were adopted the immediate financial result would be an additional charge

schools alone. But the large financial question was the cost of school buildings. If the Government closed the voluntary schools and supplied their places by board schools, it would require £28,000,000. That was a matter that could not be hurriedly undertaken by the Government, and he therefore asked the House to oppose the amendment.—**MRI. J. CHAMBERLAIN** congratulated the House on the advance that had been made recently on the subject of free education. It formed a part of the unauthorised programme when Mr. Gladstone four years ago relegated it to the dim and distant future as not within the region of practical politics. Now the Opposition was practically unanimous in favour of free education; and the Conservative party were pledged by the declaration of the Prime Minister, and by the declaration of Ministers in the House to the establishment of free education at the earliest possible date. He taunted the Gladstonians on their sudden conversion, and said that if a free education system was at once carried out it would involve a capital charge of over £40,000,000, and an addition to the present rates of £1,680,000. He did not believe that the Government had the opportunity of dealing with the question this session, as the Opposition would not give them time. (Cheers.) As the amendment involved the existence of the Government he should vote against it. (Cheers and laughter.) After some remarks from W. Harcourt, **MRI. E. STANHOPE** replied on behalf of the Government, stating that the only Government in this country that ever did anything for free education was the present one. They adhere to all that Lord Salisbury had said, and declared that they would consider the question of free education in connection with other great branches on the subject of education.—After some remarks from **MRI. J. MORLEY**, the House divided:

For Mr. Clacon's amendment 163
Against 223

Majority against 60

MRI. W. H. SMITH announced that the motion on the report of the special commission would be put down for discussion on Monday, the 3rd March.—The House adjourned at 12.15.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN LAMBETH.

Two Lives Lost.

A fire, which had fatal results, broke out the other morning on premises lying behind the western frontage of the Westminster Bridge-road, between Fleet-street and Mason-street. The property which was attacked was that of Messrs. Gay, Armstrong, and Co., fur and skin merchants, and whose premises, comprising offices, engine and boiler house, workshops, and stores, consisted of a large three-floured warehouse, crammed with an enormous quantity of skins. The firm employed nearly 300 hands. The premises were closed on Monday night, and nothing unusual was noticed until just before one o'clock next morning, when a great cloud of smoke was seen to be rolling up from the centre of the great block of buildings. The densely crowded locality instantly became the scene of extraordinary excitement. Surrounding the premises of the firm were innumerable small tenements, and as the alarm was raised, and flames followed the first appearance of smoke, the people turned out in hundreds to watch the progress made, and to gauge the chances of the safety of their own homes. By one o'clock flames were bursting out from nearly all the windows of the building. When a steam fire engine had passed under the railway bridge crossing Westminster Bridge-road, and the horses, in sight of the fire, were galloping at their utmost speed, a woman rushed from behind a cab, and in a moment had struck the pole, and was under the horses' feet. The heavy steamer was stopped in a few yards, but when the firemen ran back to the spot a sickening sight presented itself. The heavy wheel had passed over the woman's head, her skull was cut in half, and her brains were scattered in the road. The body was removed as soon as a stretcher could be procured. She was apparently about 50, was shabbily dressed, and had absolutely nothing in her pockets. She was identified as the wife of John Shelley, of 59, Lower Marsh, Lambeth. At half past one Captain Shaw ordered every steamer to get to work as it arrived in the spot, and men were set to work in the surrounding buildings to direct the branches from every point upon the fire. A great workshop on the southern side of the burning mass, belonging to Messrs. Siebe and Gorman, engineers, had caught, and, further south, the premises of the Alliance Dairy Company were in great danger. Men were accordingly sent there to do what they could to check the spread of the flames. It was at this time that the mishap occurred by which a fireman met a terrible death.

A Fireman's Statement.

First-class Fireman Goodall says:—"We were ordered by Engineer Wall-Crowe, Ansell, and myself to get a line of hose from our steamer up Mason-street, through the Dairy Company's place, and out of the first-floor window on to a lean-to shed which stood at the back of No. 10. When we were ready I went up to see that the footing was sound and safe on the leads, and, finding it was all right, we got the branch through. We were about twenty-five feet from the back wall of the place that was burned, but you could not see it for fire and smoke. We handed out the branch, Crowe and Ansell at the end, and Ansell said, 'We'll have a few more feet of hose out, for it's rather too hot work here.' I said, 'All right, and I, with one foot on the window sill and one on the lead, lightened out the hose.' Ansell said, 'That will do very nicely,' and I turned round to look if it would, when I heard a noise, and, looking up, saw the wall toppling over. I threw myself into the window, and fell downstairs. They were two or three feet nearer the fire, and had not got me to it, and the brick work buried them both." The crash of the falling wall instantly attracted the attention of all the firemen and officers near, who rushed to the spot, to find their two comrades were completely buried under great masses of brickwork, iron girders, &c. One of the first on the spot was Captain Shaw, who but a minute before had asked the men if their footing was safe. Not a second was lost in adopting means to recover the possibly lifeless bodies of the two men. Ansell's voice could be heard, although he was entirely hidden from view, and with hundreds of tons of débris surrounding him. He had, it was found afterwards, been somewhat sheltered by one great mass, which had not crushed him, and had kept the other masses off, and, although he was dreadfully injured, he had presence of mind to direct his comrades in their work. He had got his hand and arm in an upright position, and he kept asking, 'Can you see my hand? You must come lower.' Before he was extricated the workers came upon the leg of Crowe, and long before his body could be released from the frightful weight above it was apparent that life was extinct. The poor fellow never spoke, and there is little doubt that death was instantaneous. When the bruised and battered remains were recovered they presented a dreadful sight.

At Birmingham, James Hobesley, painter, was sentenced to prison for three months for assaulting Mrs. Wilkinson, wife of Canon Wilkinson, rector of St. Martin's. Mrs. Wilkinson went into a court to visit prisoner's mother, a poor parishioner. Prisoner opened the door and struck Mrs. Wilkinson on the face with his fist, causing her to fall on her back. Prisoner erroneously supposed that Mrs. Wilkinson had once had him sent to gaol.

At Marlborough-street Police Court, Adolph Bech, 34, hairdresser, of Greek-street, Soho, was charged with behaving in an disorderly manner in Greek-street. He entered the dock attired in feminine costume, and it was stated that he had been apprehended so attired the night before. Mr. Newton, who defended, said it was carnival time on the continent, and his client (a foreigner) had put on his sister's dress to surprise her at a party at which she was spending the evening. He was bound over to be of good behaviour for a month.

THE REVELATIONS IN THE CIGAR TRADE.

Mark Mordecai and Lewis Mordecai, his son, cigar dealers, of Mile End-road, appeared at the Worship-street Police Court on Thursday, to adjourned summonses charging them with having in their possession certain goods—cigars—to which a false trade description had been applied, and with applying such false trade description. The case arose out of the prosecution of a company manufacturing cigars in the East-end of London, which it was alleged they put into boxes branded with the name and address of a manufacturer in Mexico, and with labels said to be exact counterfeits of those applied by such manufacturer. Messrs. Mordecai were said to have dealt with the company for cigars, and to have in their possession boxes with the Mexican manufacturer's name, and certain labels for use with the company's cigars. The company has been convicted at the Old Bailey under the Merchandise Marks Act, and now Mr. Muir, for the prosecution, said that, after certain explanations by Messrs. Mordecai, it had been arranged that the goods complained of—the boxes and labels—should be destroyed, and the summonses withdrawn.—Mr. Besley, for the defence, consented to that course, and said that the police had certain boxes in their possession which they could destroy, and all the boxes and labels in Messrs. Mordecai's possession could be destroyed in the presence of any one sent by the prosecution.—Mr. Bushby made an order to that effect.—John Redford, cigar dealer, of Exmouth-street, Clerkenwell, summoned for the possession only of similar goods, submitted to a similar order.

THE SCHOOL BOARD SCANDALS.

At a meeting of the School Board on Thursday, the Rev. J. R. Dingle presiding, Mr. Lobb asked the chairman of the Works Committee, whether it was a fact that the infants' head-mistress of the Orchard-street School, Hackney, in December last complained of offensive smells coming through the floor of one of the rooms on the ground floor, and whether the report of the clerk of works was correct, that two cart loads of soil and saturated earth had been removed from under the floor.—Mr. Helby replied in the affirmative.—Mr. Lobb: Is it correct that the clerk of works failed to find the cause of the offensive smell in the infants' room, is the same officer who pooh-poohed the complaints of the teachers of Bonner-street school with regard to its insanitary condition, and which has since been found to be in a most appalling condition, causing the deaths of many children, and afflicting others with zymotic diseases?—Mr. Helby: The clerk of works in charge of the Orchard-street school is not the same gentleman who is in charge of Bonner-street school. In answer to a further question of Mr. Lobb, Mr. Helby said it was a fact that the Government inspector and the mistress of the infants' room of the Northgate-street School, Limehouse, complained of bad smells, and upon examination it had been found necessary to improve the sanitary condition of the school at a cost of £150.—Mr. Lobb then asked whether it was true that in connection with the alterations at the Vauxhall-street School, Lambeth, a bad system of drainage had been discovered, and that the estimated cost to remove the whole of the drainage would be £500?—Mr. Helby replied in the affirmative, but stated that certain alterations were proposed which would only cost £125.—Replying to a further question, Mr. Helby said the superior officer had reported that the drains of the Queen's Head-street School, Islington, were so defective that it would be necessary to close the school for fourteen days to carry out the absolutely necessary sanitary improvements at a cost of £200.

SINGULAR APPLICATION FOR A DIS-SOLUTION OF MARRIAGE.

In the Divorce Division before Sir James Hannen, the case of Kalbitz v. Kalbitz came on for hearing on Thursday. It was a petition presented by the wife praying for the dissolution of her marriage on the ground of bigamy committed by her husband, formerly a colour-sergeant in Her Majesty's 109th Regiment, in India.—Mr. Maloney said the parties were, on the 4th of October, 1869, married in India, and they afterwards cohabited there for about ten months, when the petitioner left the respondent. The petitioner heard nothing of her husband from 1870 until 1887. Prior to the latter year she heard that the respondent had died at some place in India, but subsequently she heard that the respondent was alive and living with a woman in Somersetshire. She presented a petition to the court last year, but in the year 1876, believing the respondent to be dead, she went through a ceremony of marriage with a man named Kelly, an engineer at Moulton, but that marriage had been dissolved by the High Court in India.—Mrs. Kalbitz said she was married to the respondent at Moulton in 1869, she at that time was sixteen years of age and the respondent forty. She left the respondent because he said she had neglected the child. In 1874 she heard he had died at Singapore. When she left him she went back to her parents in the north-west. In the year 1876 she went through the ceremony of marriage with George Kelly, and some time after that she heard through Kelly, that Kalbitz was alive and living in Somersetshire, in England. She caused inquiries to be made in England, and after that she had her marriage with Kelly dissolved. She came to England in 1889. She had previously given directions to her solicitor to institute proceedings in that court. —In reply to Sir James Hannen, the petitioner said she and Kalbitz parted because he said she neglected the child that had been born of the marriage. The child had since died. She only knew that Kalbitz was not dead through a quarrel she had with Kelly. She was under the impression that he had died at Singapore. She had no evidence other than she had stated, that Kalbitz was dead. He never sent her any money.—Frederick Burford, solicitor, said that on the 27th of January of the present year he called at a house at Kingsdown, near Box, where he had been told Sergeant Kalbitz resided. He was shown a photo by the landlady. He did not on that occasion see Kalbitz, but a day or two after he met him at Bath Railway Station, and recognised him.—This was the whole of the evidence offered on behalf of the petitioner. His lordship said he should adjourn the case, and the petitioner would then have an opportunity of considering her position. The husband was in his possession, written by Mr. Willis for Jessie, it was shown to be a tissue of falsehoods.—Mr. Willis: No, sir.—The Coroner: I have the letter, another letter, dated 1884, with the signature, "C.L.M." Do you know that?—No.—The Coroner: Mr. Rogers, brother of the deceased, wished to be publicly known that the reason he cannot give any evidence is because he has been away from home for several years.—Mr. Grain said he had no questions to ask. He had perused the coroner's depositions and the reports in the papers, and he did not think it necessary to call Mr. Willis.—The coroner then summed up, and in doing so commented on the action of the chemist in selling so large a quantity of poison to one person. The name of Mr. Willis had been mentioned, and it did not appear to him how it could have been avoided. They had nothing to do with his friendship for the girl Florence, but at all events it was very indiscreet. Mr. Willis was a married man, and from a letter which he (the coroner) had in his possession, written by Mr. Willis for Jessie, it was shown to be a tissue of falsehoods.—Mr. Willis: No, sir.—The Coroner: I have the letter with me.—Mr. Grain advised his client to allow the coroner to proceed.—The coroner said at any rate if it was not a tissue of falsehoods it was incorrect. This case had disclosed some very painful facts, because they found that this girl Jessie had not only fallen from the paths of virtue, but had contracted a horrible disease. From other letters in his (the coroner's) possession it seemed that she was acquainted with other people besides Mr. Willis, though it was true against the latter nothing but friendliness was alleged.—Mr. Willis (interrupting): May I say, sir, that week after week I saw nothing of this girl? that it was only in the most casual way that I ever saw her at all?—The coroner, in conclusion, thanked the jury for the attention they had given to the case.—After a few minutes deliberation, the following verdict was returned:—"That the deceased met her death by taking poison whilst in an unsound state of mind brought about by physical and mental difficulties."

Next Wednesday evening the Borthwick Habitation of the Primrose League will give a musical entertainment at the Addison Hall, Addison-road, Kensington. Among the artists who have kindly promised their assistance are Madame Sincé, Miss Jenny Edmond, Signor Carlo Ducci, Mr. Chilcott, Mr. Hilton, Mr. Cuthbertson, and Mr. Jeffrey. In addition, Miss Grace Lowther will recite "Shadows," and Mr. Macklin is down for a Dickens' selection. As a full house is certain, early application for tickets—2s. 6d. reserved seats, 1s. and 6d. unreserved—should be made to the hon. secretary, 83, Chancery-lane.

SAD SUICIDE OF A GOVERNESS.

Inquest and Verdict.

Mr. Hicks held the adjourned inquiry on Friday, at the Star and Garter tavern, Church-road, Battersea, relative to the death of Jessie Rogers, aged 24 years, a governess.—The evidence taken on the previous occasion was to the effect that the deceased left home at nine o'clock on the morning of the 12th inst., for the purpose of going to Hyde Park-square, where she was engaged as governess, and returned at seven o'clock in the evening, feeling unwell.—Other evidence was also given, which introduced matters connected with a dentist named Willis, who was also well known to the sister of the deceased.—The first witness called on Friday was Arthur John Oakman, second officer in the merchant service. He knew the deceased, and had been engaged to her since last year. He first knew her in April, 1884.—The Coroner: Did you ever remonstrate with her about being in the company of any one?—Witness: Yes; I spoke to her about a Mr. Willis. She told me on the Wednesday previous to the suicide that she had been to dinner with him, and also to the theatre. —Were you angry with her? Yes, very angry.—Did you ask her who Mr. Willis was? No. I knew who he was. She had spoken of him before.—Did she mention anything concerning him? Yes; she said Mr. Willis knocked her down at the shop in Lower Belgrave-street. She had also remarked that he was of violent temper.—Did she say how she was knocked down—by accident or otherwise? She didn't say.—Did she make any further complaint? Yes; she said to her father she wished to keep her room, and Mr. Willis tried to force the door, which she had locked.—Were you very angry with her when she told you of Mr. Willis? Yes. I was very angry, and told her she would have to stop it.—At this point Mr. Grain, barrister, said he appeared for Mr. Willis.—Examination resumed: Witness partied with the deceased on the last occasion that he saw her. He left her on the Tuesday night, and she seemed in good spirits. He met her the next night at about five minutes past seven. Their engagement was unknown to anybody but themselves. He arranged to meet her on the last evening. When he saw her she rolled heavily from one side to the other.

Taking Laudanum.

What did you say to her? I accused her of drinking. She said she had not been drinking, but she had been to see Mr. Willis, and also to see Kitty.—Did she make any further remark? Yes; she said she had been taking laudanum. I did not know it was poison, but I thought people took it to make them sleep.—What did you do then? I took her further away, and she became worse. Did she say why she had been taking laudanum? Yes, to drive her pains away. As she became worse I took her home to her mother, carrying her from Bridge-road. A doctor was at once sent for, when she said that she had taken an ounce of laudanum.—Coroner (handing up several letters): Do you know that handwriting?—Witness: No. I corresponded with her, but her mother told me that the deceased had destroyed the letters the day before, on the Tuesday.—By Mr. Grain: She had been depressed for the past two years, ever since the death of her brother; but she did not appear to be upset on leaving her situation.—Mrs. Rogers, mother of the deceased, said that since the last examination she had looked through all the deceased's papers, and could find nothing that would lead to her committing this rash act. The deceased had never complained to her of any pains, nor had she (witness) ever suspected that there was anything wrong.